

SECOND YEAR

TEXTBOOK



**NEW
TESTAMENT
INTRODUCTION**

A Study of the Context of
the N.T.

**DELIVERANCE BIBLE
INSTITUTE**
Portland, Maine, USA

New Testament Introduction

A Study of the Context of the N.T.

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Introduction to Course

New Testament Introduction is a

Introduction

I. An Overview

In this class you will learn...

- A brief review of the concluding events of the Old Testament
- A history of the period between the Testaments
- The significance of this history & contributions made
- A brief summary of the Roman civilization during the time of Christ

In this class you will learn...

- The portraits of Christ as revealed in the Gospels
- The offices of Christ
- Major points of the New Testament

IN the Bible or not in the Bible test

Explanation of dates. Inaccuracies.

Ch. 1 - Introduction to Section One

I. Conclusion of the Old Testament

The books of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther tell us what happened in the last 100 years of Old Testament History. Ezra and Nehemiah (means “consolation of the lord”) tell of the return of some of the Jewish captives to their own land. They tell us how the people rebuilt the temple and then the wall of Jerusalem. The book of Esther tells events that happened to Jews who remained in Persia during this period of time. Some of the prophets also tell events that happened at this time. Malachi was the last of the Old Testament prophets. (Malachi means “my messenger” or “messenger of Jehovah.”)

The first world power was Egypt which was followed by Assyria. The Persian Empire came into power after Cyrus the Great conquered Babylon.

II. God Governs in Man’s Affairs

A. God is in Control

Daniel 2:21—And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

Both the books of Isaiah and Daniel prophesy of Persia’s rise to power and Babylon’s fall. God ordered this transfer of power.

Isaiah 45:1—Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;

Isaiah 46:1—Bel boweth down, Nebo stoopeth, their idols were upon the beasts, and upon the cattle: your carriages were heavy loaden; they are a burden to the weary beast.

In Daniel 5:25-31, the very finger of God wrote on Belshazzar’s wall:

- MENE; *God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.*
- TEKEL; *Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.*
- PERES; *Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.*

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It Happened Exactly as God had said it would! (Daniel 5:31)
And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.

B. Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Ever before Babylon fell to Persia, God detailed his judgment set on Babylon and outlined the times to come. God prescribed the future transfers of power from Babylon to Persia, from Persia to Greece, and finally from Greece to Rome. Remember God is in control of HIS STORY. The rise and fall of the Empires was God ordained

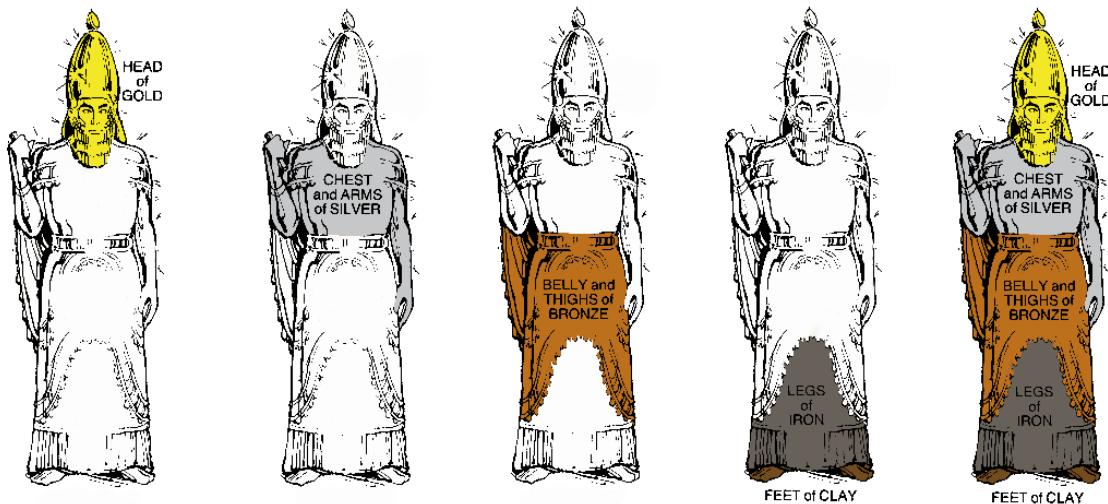
Nebuchadnezzar's dream found in Daniel chapter two prophetically unfolds this procession of Empires. (Daniel 2: 31-40) In his dream, he saw a great image. The image's head was of fine gold, breast and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass, his legs of iron and his feet part iron and part clay. After seeing this image, he saw a stone cut without hands which smote the image and destroyed it.

The Scripture reveals that this image represented kingdoms:
Daniel 2:38-40—*And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold. 39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. 40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.*

"Thou art this head of gold" → Babylonian Empire, 606-539 BC
"another kingdom inferior to thee" → Medo-Persian Empire, 539-333 BC

"third kingdom of brass" → Grecian Empire, 333-44 BC
"And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron" → Roman Empire, 44 BC - 476 AD

At the end of the Old Testament, the Persian Empire was in power and remained so until 333 BC. Then, by the conquests of Alexander the Great, the Grecian Empire arose, and dominated from 333 BC until 167 BC. After the death of Alexander in 323 BC, his Empire was divided between four of his generals. Two of these were Ptolemy and Seleucus. Each of these inaugurated a dynasty; the former (Ptolemy) in Egypt, and the latter (Seleucus) in Syria. They contended with each other for the mastery of Palestine until 167 BC; sometimes the one dominated, and sometimes the other dominated.



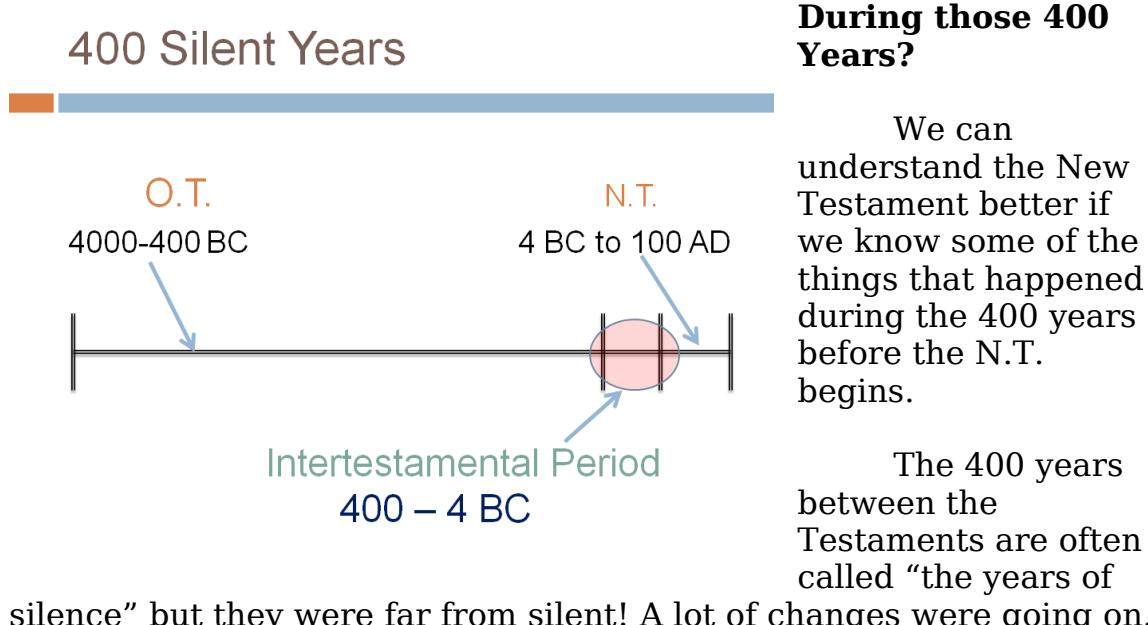
Then came the struggle for Jewish national independence under the Maccabees. This period covered 167-141 BC. This was followed by the rule in Palestine of a family of Jewish Priest-Kings, descendants of the Maccabees, known as the Asmonaeans (a name derived from a Hebrew word meaning "wealthy"). They remained in power for seventy-eight years from 141 - 63 BC.

In 63 BC, Pompey the Great conquered Palestine. This was the beginning of the domination of the Jewish people by Rome.

III. Intertestamental Timeline

A. The *Silent* but Epic Years

There is a 400-year period between the Old and New Testaments referred to as "The Silent Years." During this period, there is a gap in Biblical record. Although including some insightful history, the Apocrypha is not God's Word. Therefore, even though portions of the Apocrypha contain some history of the period between the testaments, we have to say there is no record of divine revelation during the "Silent Years."



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It is absolutely necessary to realize that things are not taken up by the New Testament from where the Old Testament laid them down. When we turn from Malachi 4 to Matthew 1, we must understand that about four hundred years have come between, and that in this period great changes have taken place. An attentive reading of the New Testament will lead us to ask many questions which, for the most part, can be answered only by the Inter-Testament period.

B. A Plan in the Making

During these 400 years, God was setting events in order for the birth and ministry of Christ.

1. Prophecy fulfilled during this period (Dan. 2:31-40)
2. Spread of the Greek language
 - a. God chose the language for the N.T.
 - b. Universal language at the opening of the N.T.
3. Roman Empire in power
 - a. The Roman census brought Mary to Bethlehem
 - b. Execution by crucifixion
 - c. Roman roads to carry The Gospel

C. INTERTESTIMENTAL PERIOD TIMELINE

- B.C. 753 -Rome Founded
539 -Cyrus the Great conquers Babylon/ Persian Empire
“begins”
400 **-End of Old Testament**
336 -Philip of Macedon dies/Alexander assumes power at 20 yrs. of age
333 -Beginning of Hellenistic Period/Alexander conquers Tyre
331 -Beginning of Greek Empire/Alexander founds Alexandria
330 -End of Persian Empire
323 -Alexander dies at only 33 yrs. of age/Egyptian and Syrian Rule of Greek Empire begins/ (Acts 19:35)
320 -Judea was annexed to Egypt
300 -Apocrypha being written/Nabateans rule until 100 A.D.
280 -Septuagint being written in Alexandria
193 -Judea was annexed to Syria
170 -Septuagint finished in Alexandria
168 -Antiochus Epiphanes pollutes the temple
167 -Beginning of the Maccabean Revolt
166 -End of Greek Empire/Jewish Independence “Asmonean Dynasty”
165 -December, Judas Maccabeaus rededicated the temple
130 -Babylon brought to ruin by Parthians

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- 63 - End of Jewish Independence "Asmonean Dynasty"/Roman General Pompey takes Jerusalem/Roman Empire "begins"-Augustus Caesar is the first Roman Emperor until 14 A.D./ End of Hellenistic Period
- 46 -Corinth rebuilt by Julius Caeser
- 37 -Judea ruled by a king, Herod the Great, appointed by the Roman Senate
- 31 -Battle at Actium, Augustus Caesar overthrew Mark Antony/In Spring, Earthquake in Qumran, Judea
- 30 -Cleopatra VII Philopator died (the last ruler of the Ptolemaic Dynasty)
- 27 -Augustus Caesar is Roman Emperor until 14 A.D.
- 20 -Herod the Great built a white marble temple and dedicated it to Augustus Caesar in Paneaus later named by Herod Philip "Caesarea Philippi".
- 17 -Sardis destroyed by earthquake (rebuilt in 1st century A.D.)
- 10 -After 12 years of building, Herod dedicates Ceaserea to Ceasar Augustus (capital of Judea)
- 4 -Apocrypha finished/Herod the Great dies
- B.C. 2 -Birth of Paul

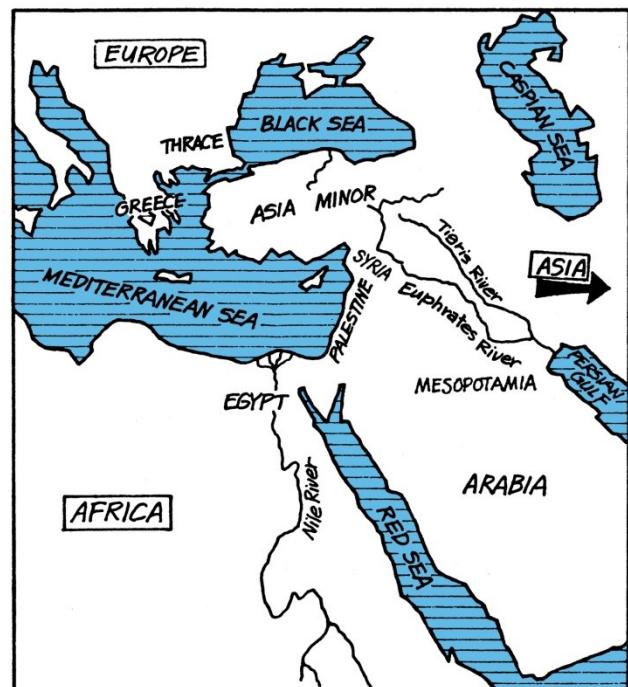
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IV. Importance of Palestine

Palestine—A Land Bridge

If you look at the map, you'll see that Palestine is like a bridge of land that connects three continents: Europe, Asia, and Africa. Because of the important location of this little piece of land, every world empire that came to power wanted to control it. And so Palestine was conquered first by one and then another and then another world power.

- Alexander the Great from Greece conquered Palestine and the lands around it. He introduced the Greek language and customs to Palestine.
- When Alexander died, his empire went to his four generals. The kingdom founded in Egypt conquered Palestine first. Then this kingdom was powered by the kingdom founded in Syria and Mesopotamia.



V. Babylonian Empire

A. The City of Babylon

The city of Babylon was a city-state of ancient Mesopotamia, the remains of which are found in present-day Al Hillah, Babil Province, Iraq, about 55 miles (85 kilometers) south of Baghdad. Sometime after the flood, Nimrod founded Babylon according to Genesis 10:9-10. Babylon became the seat of the Neo-Babylonian Empire.

QUICK FACTS:

Babylon may have been the first city ever to reach a population of 200,000. The Hanging Gardens of Babylon were one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Babylonian king Hammurabi is known for codifying the laws of Babylonia into the *Code of Hammurabi* that has had a lasting influence on legal thought. 1800 BC: the Babylonians employ a duodecimal system (a system based on 12 and 6) to measure time. 1700 BC: Babylonians invent the first windmills for the purpose of irrigation; the "Enuma Elish" (creation story of the Babylonians) originates; the Hebrews return from Egypt and establish a kingdom in

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Palestine; 823 BC: Shalmeneser III's son, Shamshi-Adad V of Assyria, conquers Babylon and extends the empire from the Gulf to the Mediterranean. 689 BC: Assyrian king Sennacherib raids Babylon to quell an insurrection. 681 BC: Assyrian king Sennacherib dies and is succeeded by his son Esarhaddon, who rebuilds Babylon 649 BC: king Ashurbanipal of Assyria raids Babylon to quell another insurrection.

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B. The Empire of Babylon: Neo-Babylonian Empire, 612 to 539 BC.

1. The Rise of an Empire, 612 BC

Through its centuries of Assyrian domination, Babylon enjoyed a prominent status, or revolted at the slightest indication that it did not. The Assyrians always managed to restore Babylonian loyalty, however, whether through granting of increased privileges, or militarily. That finally changed in 627 BC with the death of the last strong Assyrian ruler, Assurbanipal, and Babylonia rebelled under **Nabopolassar the Chaldean** the following year. With help from the Medes, Nineveh was sacked in 612 BC, and the seat of the empire was again transferred to Babylonia.

Nabopolassar was followed by his son **Nebuchadnezzar II**, whose reign of 43 years made Babylon once more the world power. In 587, Nebuchadnezzar II conquered Judea and destroyed Jerusalem and deports thousands of Jews. This the second deportatation of the Jews wit the first caused by the of the Assyrian Empire. 580 BC: Nebuchadnezzar II builds eight monumental gates, the Esagila complex, the seven-storey ziggurat, and the Hanging Gardens. 562, Nebuchadnezzar II dies

Amel-Marduk followed Nebuchadnezzar 562 – 560 BC . Who was followed by Nergal-shar-usur 560 – 556 BC . Followed by Labashi-Marduk 556 BC.

Of the reign of the last Babylonian king, Nabonidus (556-539) and the conquest of Babylonia by Cyrus, there is a fair amount of information available. This is chiefly derived from a chronological tablet containing the annals of Nabonidus, supplemented by another inscription of Nabonidus where he recounts his restoration of the temple of the Moon-god at Harran, and also correlating information from the book of Daniel; as well as by a proclamation of Cyrus issued shortly after his formal recognition as king of Babylonia.

Belshazzar was the son of Nabonidus. He made Belshazzar co-regent in 553 B.C., leaving him in charge of Babylon's defense, while he journeyed away to Tema. The Nabonidus Cylinder from Sippar is a long text in which king Nabonidus of Babylonia describes among other things the existence of a son named Belshazzar, who is mentioned in the Book of Daniel. The cylinder states:

"As for me, Nabonidus, king of Babylon, save me from sinning against your great godhead and grant me as a present a life long of days, and as for Belshazzar, the eldest son -my offspring- instill reverence for your great godhead in his heart and may he not commit any cultic mistake, may he be sated with a life of plenitude."

In 538 B.C. Belshazzar was positioned in the city of Babylon to hold the capital, while, after returning from Sema, Nabonidus marched his troops north to meet Cyrus.

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2. The Fall of an Empire, 539 BC

In 539 BC Cyrus invaded Babylonia. Nabonidus fled to Babylon, where he was pursued by Gobryas, and on the 16th day of Tammuz, two days after the capture of Sippara, "the soldiers of Cyrus entered Babylon without fighting." Nabonidus was dragged from his hiding-place, where the services continued without interruption.

The invasion of Babylonia by Cyrus was doubtless facilitated by the existence of a disaffected party in the state, as well as by the presence of foreign forced exiles like the Jews, who had been planted in the midst of the country.

Study Questions One

Introduction & Chapter 1: Introduction to Section One

1. Which three books, especially tell us what happened in the last 100 years of the OT?
2. What does the name "Nehemiah" mean?
3. Give Scripture proving God is in control of the kingdoms of the world? (2 references)
4. What did the following prophetic words mean?
MENE—
TEKEL—
PERES—
5. Complete the following: "God is in control of _____."
6. List the world Empires starting with ASSYRIA and ending with the N.T.
7. What did the image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream represent?
8. On the line below, write the corresponding letter of the related phrase from the dream.
Babylon _ — a. Chest and Arms of Silver
Greece _ — b. Head of Gold
Assyria _ — c. Belly and Thighs of Bronze
Rome _ — d. Legs of Iron and Feet of Clay
Persia _ — e. Not mentioned
9. What was the dynasty of Jewish prist-kings that ruled 141-63 BC called?

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10. Why do we call the 400 years between the N.T. & O.T. "The Silent Years"?
11. What was the "plan in the making" during the silent years?
12. Why has every world empire wanted to control Palestine?
13. Who founded the city of Babylon? And How do you know?
14. What is the *Enuma Elish*?
15. What happened in 627 BC, to drastically change Babylon's loyalty to Assyria?
16. Who was the last Babylonian Empire king?
17. Justify the previous answer with Daniel's account which says another man was the last king. (How can this be true? Daniel 5:30)

ASSIGNMENT #1: Make 7 additions of your own to the "Intertestamental Timeline, p.6.

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Quiz One

Introduction & Chapter 1: Introduction to Section One

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Persia - -	e. Not mentioned
 8. Why do we call the 400 years between the N.T. & O.T. "The Silent Years"?
 9. What was the "plan in the making" during the silent years?
 10. Why has every world empire wanted to control Palestine?

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BONUS:

Justify the historical record that states "Nabonidus" was the last Babylonian king with Daniel's account which says Belshazzar was the last king. (How can this be true? Daniel 5:30)

Ch. 2 - Persian Empire

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II. PERSIAN PERIOD

A. The Persian Empire was in power at the conclusion of the O.T.

1. A continuation of the transfer of power described in

Daniel 5

a. Babylon was overthrown

b. Kingdom given to Medes and Persians

2. Fulfillment of Bible prophecy

B. Persian rule was mild to the Jew

C. Palestine ruled by Persia for 70 years

D. Defeated by Alexander the Great in 331 BC

It was in the sixth year of Nabonidus (549 BC) that Cyrus, the Achaemenid Persian "king of Anshan" in Elam, revolted against his suzerain Astyages, "king of the Manda" or Medes, at Ecbatana. Astyages' army betrayed him to his enemy, and Cyrus established himself at Ecbatana, thus putting an end to the empire of the Medes. Three years later Cyrus had become king of all Persia, and was engaged in a campaign in northern Mesopotamia. Meanwhile,

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Nabonidus had established a camp in the desert, near the southern frontier of his kingdom, leaving his son Belshazzar (Belsharutsur) in command of the army.

Cyrus did not arrive until the 3rd of Marchesvan (October), Gobryas having acted for him in his absence. Gobryas was now made governor of the province of Babylon, and a few days afterwards the son of Nabonidus died. A public mourning followed, lasting six days, and Cambyses accompanied the corpse to the tomb.

Cyrus now claimed to be the legitimate successor of the ancient Babylonian kings and the avenger of Bel-Marduk, who was assumed to be wrathful at the impiety of Nabonidus in removing the images of the local gods from their ancestral shrines to his capital Babylon.

Nabonidus, in fact, had excited a strong feeling against himself by attempting to centralize the religion of Babylonia in the temple of Merodach (Marduk) at Babylon, and while he had thus alienated the local priesthoods, the military party despised him on account of his antiquarian tastes. He seemed to have left the defense of his kingdom to others, occupying himself with the more congenial work of excavating the foundation records of the temples and determining the dates of their builders.

One of the first acts of Cyrus accordingly was to allow these exiles to return to their own homes, carrying with them the images of their god and their sacred vessels. The permission to do so was embodied in a proclamation, whereby the conqueror endeavored to justify his claim to the Babylonian throne. The feeling was still strong that none had a right to rule over western Asia until he had been consecrated to the office by Bel and his priests; and accordingly, Cyrus henceforth assumed the imperial title of "King of Babylon."

539 BC: Cyrus of Persia sacks Babylon and frees the Jews

530 BC: Cambyses becomes king of Persia

525 BC: Cambyses of Persia conquers Egypt at the battle of Pelusium

522 BC: Cambyses dies and civil War erupts in Persia

521 BC: Darius becomes king of Persia and divides Persia into satrapies

521 BC: Darius of Persia expands the Persian empire beyond the Indus River

518 BC: Darius founds the new capital of Persia, Persepolis

514 BC: the Persian king Darius invades Scythia

500 BC: Darius makes Aramaic the official language of the Persian empire

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490 BC: Darius of Persia attacks mainland Greece
485 BC: Darius dies and Xerxes becomes king of Persia
480 BC: the Greeks expels the Persians from Europe
465 BC: Artaxerxes I Longimanus becomes king of Persia
425 BC: Phoenician explorer Himilco travels from Carthage to Brittany
424 BC: Xerxes II becomes king of Persia
404 BC: Artaxerxes II Mnemon becomes king of Persia
360 BC: king Atheas unites all Scythian tribes and expands their territory to the border with Macedonia
358 BC: Artaxerxes III Ochus becomes king of Persia
339 BC: Atheas of Scythia is killed in the war against Philip of Macedonia
336 BC: Darius Codomannus becomes king of Persia

PERSIA KINGS OF MEDIA Deioces728-675 Phraortes675-653 Cyaxares653-585
Astyages585-550 **KINGS OF LYDIA** Gyges685-644 Ardys644-615 Sadyattes615-610
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Definition:

The [Persian Empire](#) included all of what is now Iran, and in fact Persia was the official name of Iran until 1935.

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At its height about 500 BC, the founding dynasty of the empire, the Achaemenids, had conquered Asia as far as the Indus River, Greece, and North Africa including what is now Egypt and Libya.

The beginning of the Persian empire is set at different times by different scholars, but the real force behind the expansion was Cyrus II, aka Cyrus the Great, in the mid-sixth century BC.

Cyrus was part of the [Achaemenid Empire](#), with Cyrus's capital first at Hamadan and then [Pasargadae](#).

In 330 BC, Macedonian Greeks led by Alexander the Great overthrew the Achaemenids and established what was called the Seleucid Empire after Alexander's general.

The Seleucids were in turn followed by the Parthian and Sassanid dynasties.

The Sassinids were defeated by Arab caliphs in the mid-7th century AD, and by 651, the Persian empire was ended.

C. Persian Empire Timeline

- [Achaemenid Empire](#) [550-330 BC]
 - [Seleucid Empire](#) [330-170 BC], established by Alexander the Great and also called the Hellenistic Period
 - [Parthian Dynasty](#) [170 BC-AD 226]
 - Sassanid (or Sasanian) Dynasty [AD 226-651]
 - See also [a timeline of the Near East](#)
See also [a timeline of the Arabs](#)
-

4200 BC: Susa is founded in western Persia

3100 BC: Tables in proto-Elamite script

2700 BC: a first dynasty creates the Elamite kingdom (non Semitic) in western Persia with capital in Susa

2350 BC: The Akkadians conquer Susa

2180 BC: the Akkadian empire is destroyed by the Gutis, who invade from the north, and the Elamites of Susa regain their independence

2007 BC: the Elamites of Susa capture Ur

2000 BC: the game of chess ("shatranj") develops in Persia

1340 BC: King Untash-Napirisha of Elam founds a new capital at Chogha Zanbil

836 BC: Shalmaneser II, King of Assyria, defeats the

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Medes, who rule in Persia

722 BC: Dayaukku/De~~o~~ces founds the Median dynasty

**710 BC: Daiukku founds the new capital of the
Medians/Persians at Hakmataneh/Ecbatana (Hamadan)**

**700 BC: Achaemenes founds the Achaemenid dynasty of
Persia in Anshan, subject to Media**

**675 BC: Khshathrita/ Phraortes unites the Median tribes
and expels the Assyrians from northeastern Iran**

**653 BC: the Scythians invade the Median empire
(northeast Persia)**

**646 BC: king Ashurbanipal of Assyria raids the Elamite
capital Susa in Persia**

626 BC: the Medians/Persians defeat the Scythians

**625 BC: Median king Cyaxares moves the capital to
Ecbatana (Hamadan)**

615 BC: the Medes capture Assyrian cities

**612 BC: the Babylonians, led by king Nabopolassar, and
their allies the Medes, led by Cyaxares, destroy the
Assyrian capital of Nineveh (as well as Nimrud) and split
the Assyrian empire (Mesopotamia to Babylon and Elam
to Media) while Egypt recovers control of Palestine and
Syria**

600 BC: Zarathustra forms a new religion in Persia

**559 BC: Cyrus Achaemenian unifies Elam, and moves the
capital of the Achaemenids to Susa**

**550 BC: Cyrus Achaemenian defeats Astyages, emperor of
the Medes, conquers its capital Ecbatana (Hamadan), and
unifies Media and Elam in the Persian empire**

546 BC: Cyrus overthrows Croesus of Lydia

539 BC: Cyrus of Persia sacks Babylon and frees the Jews

530 BC: Cambyses becomes king of Persia

**525 BC: Cambyses of Persia conquers Egypt at the battle
of Pelusium**

522 BC: Cambyses dies and civil War erupts in Persia

**521 BC: Darius becomes king of Persia and divides Persia
into satrapies**

**521 BC: Darius of Persia expands the Persian empire
beyond the Indus River**

**518 BC: Darius founds the new capital of Persia,
Persepolis**

514 BC: the Persian king Darius invades Scythia

**500 BC: Darius makes Aramaic the official language of the
Persian empire**

490 BC: Darius of Persia attacks mainland Greece

485 BC: Darius dies and Xerxes becomes king of Persia

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- 480 BC:** the Greeks expels the Persians from Europe
- 465 BC:** Artaxerxes I Longimanus becomes king of Persia
- 424 BC:** Xerxes II becomes king of Persia
- 404 BC:** Artaxerxes II Mnemon becomes king of Persia
- 358 BC:** Artaxerxes III Ochus becomes king of Persia
- 336 BC:** Darius Codomannus becomes king of Persia
- 334 BC:** Alexander defeats the Persian army at the Dardanelles
- 333 BC:** Alexander invades the Persian empire from Syria to Palestine
- 331 BC:** Alexander the Great conquers Persia and destroys Persepolis, ending the Achaemenid dynasty
- 329 BC:** Artaxerxes V dies, last of the Achaemenians
- 323 BC:** Alexander the Great dies at Babylon and his empire is carved into three empires: Cassander rules over Greece and Macedonia, Lysimachus rules over Thracia and Asia Minor, Ptolemy rules over Egypt, Judea, Syria, Mesopotamia and India
- 312 BC:** Ptolemy's general in Syria, Seleucus Nicator, declares himself satrap of Babylon
- 305 BC:** Seleucus Nicator establishes a kingdom ranging from Syria in the west to India in the east and founds the Seleucid dynasty with capital in Seleucia (Iraq)
- 303 BC:** Seleucus grants Punjab and Afghanistan to Chandragupta Maurya
- 282 BC:** Seleucus defeats and kills Lysimachus and thereby conquers Asia Minor
- 281 BC:** Seleucus is murdered by the king of Thracia and is succeeded by his son Antiochus who transfers the capital to Antiochia
- 250 BC:** Diodotos, a Macedonian ruler of the satrapy of Bactria (Afghanistan), declares its independence from the Seleucids
- 250 BC:** the Parni invade the satrapy of Parthia (northern Iran) and found the Parthian empire with capital in Ctesiphon (near Seleucia) and Arsaces as ruler (founder of the Arsacid dynasty)
- 248 BC:** Tiridates leads the Parthians to independence from the Seleucids
- 246 BC:** defeated by Ptolemy III Euergetes, the Seleucid empire loses eastern lands to the Parthians and to Pergamum
- 239 BC:** Bactria declares independence from the Seleucids
- 198 BC:** the Seleucids under Antiochus III conquer

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Palestine and Phoenicia from the Ptolemaics

192 BC: the Seleucids under Antiochus III are defeated by the Romans in Thracia

190 BC: Bactrian king Euthydemus defeats Seleucid king Antiochus III at Magnesia

188 BC: Pergamum conquers the Seleucid lands of Lydia, Phrygia, Lycaonia, Pisidia

185 BC: Parthians under Priapatius expand into Seleucid eastern Iran

175 BC: Mithraism (an offshoot of Zoroastrianism that worships Ahura Mazda as the sole and creator god) is born in Bactria

170 BC: Bactrian king Demetrios I expands Bactria to northwestern India

155 BC: Bactrian king Menander invades northwestern India

145 BC: the Kushan (Yuezhi), nomadic tribes expelled from China by the Hsiungnu (Huns), overthrow the kingdom of Bactria and pushes the Scythians south to Iran and India

141 BC: the Parthians of Mithradates I conquer Media and Elam from the Seleucids, while Edessa becomes de-facto independent

135 BC: the Kushan establish their capital in Kabul

127 BC: the Parthians under Phraates II are defeated by the Scythians

126 BC: the Parthians under Artabanus II conquer Babylonia from the Seleucids, who now control only Syria

124 BC: the Parthians under Artabanus II are defeated again by the Scythians and Mithridates II succeeds Artabanus II as king of Parthia

53 BC: the Parthians led by Orodes II defeat the Romans at Carrhae (Syria)

20 BC: a treaty between Rome and the Parthians fixes the boundary between the two empires along the Euphrates river (Iraq)

78 AD: Kanishka, king of the Kushan, enlarges the kingdom from Bactria into Uzbekistan, Kashmir, Punjab, moves the capital to Peshawar and promotes Buddhism

116: Roman emperor Trajan defeats the Parthian king Vologezes III and conquers Mesopotamia, including the Parthian capital Ctesiphon

224: Ardashir, descendant of the priest Sassan, seizes the throne of Persia/Parthia, ends the Arsacid dynasty, and becomes the first Sassanid king with capital in Istakhr

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(near Persepolis) and Zoroastrianism as the official religion

225: Ardashir I Sassanid defeats Artabanus V, last Parthian ruler, and moves the capital to Ctesiphon

233: Ardashir I Sassanid conquers Kushan

244: Shapur I becomes king of the Sassanids and attacks Rome

250: Shahpur I establishes the library of Jondi Shahpur, one of the largest in the world

256: the Persians/Sassanids conquer Dura Europus in Mesopotamia

241: Mani, a thinker from Ecbatana, begins to preach in Seleucia-Ctesiphon

276: Mani is crucified by the Sassanids for trying to incorporate Judaism, Christianity and Zoroastrianism into one religion ("manicheism")

298: the Sassanids sign a peace treaty with Rome

363: the Sassanid king Shapur II defeats the Roman emperor Julian and recapture Nisibis and Armenia

379: Shapur II died after conquering Arabia and reaching the border with China

451: Zoroastran Persia (Sassanids) defeats Christian Armenia

460: Persian king Firuz persecutes Jews, who emigrate to Arabia

484: Zoroastran Persia and Christian Armenia sign a treaty that allows the Armenians to keep their religion

528: the Sassanid intellectual Mazdak advocates the abolition of private property, the division of wealth, nonviolence and vegetarianism

531: Khusro I ascends to the Sassanid throne and is influenced by Mazdakism

560: the Sassanid king Khusro I builds the Palace of the Great Arch in Ctesiphon

579: the Sassanid king Khusro I dies and is succeeded by Khusro II

590: the Sassanid king Khusro II launches a new attack against Byzantium

600: the Zoroastrian high priest Tanar establishes the canon of the Avesta

614: the Sassanids capture Jerusalem from Byzantium

619: the Sassanids capture Egypt from Byzantium

623: Byzantine troops destroy the fire temples of Persia (in revenge for the Persian desecration of Jerusalem)

626: the Sassanids besiege Byzantium

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- 627:** the Sassanid king Khusrau II is defeated by Roman emperor Heraclius at Nineveh
- 628:** Khusrau II is assassinated by his troops while the Romans retake Syria from the Sassanids
- 632:** the Sassanid queen Purandokht signs a peace treaty with Byzantium
- 636:** the Arabs capture Ctesiphon, the last Sassanid is assassinated in Merv and the Sassanid empire ends
- 460:** Persian king Firuz persecutes Jews, who emigrate to Arabia
- 600:** Steel is invented in Iran (Persia)
- 632:** Abu Bakr, one of Mohammed's followers and the first Muslim caliph ("prophet's successor"), quells upheavals throughout Arabia and declares war on the Roman and Persian (Sassanid) empires
- 650:** the Arabs conquer the whole of Persia
- 697:** the Arabs force the Persians to abandon the Pahlavi alphabet in favor of the Arabic script
- 749:** Abu 'l-'Abbas Saffah, whose army is led by the Persian general Abu Muslim Khorasani, replaces the Umayyad dynasty with the Abbasid dynasty
- 840:** Sibovayh, a Persian scholar, codifies the Arabic grammar and writes the first Arabic dictionary
- 850:** the Persian mathematician Khwarazmi founds Algebra and invents the Arabix numerals
- 867:** the Saffarids (shiite) in eastern Persia become virtually independent
- 879:** the Safavid ruler Yaqub Leys revolts against the Arabs and unifies most of Persia
- 899:** the Samanids defeat the Saffarids and expand their empire to Persia but adopt the Persian language
- 945:** the Buyids (shiite) descend from the Caspian Sea, and invade Abbasid Persia
- 949:** Adud Dawla of the Buyid dynasty adopts the Persian imperial title shah
- 950:** Pahlavi, the language of Persia, is reformed according to the Arabic script
- 962:** the Ghaznavid kingdom is founded in Afghanistan (at Ghazni) by Alp-egin, a Turkic slave soldier of the Samanids
- 977:** the Buyid shah Adud Dawla conquers Baghdad and seizes effective control of the caliphate from the Abbasids
- 977:** Sebaktigin, king of the Ghaznavid kingdom, invades northern India and Central Asia
- 999:** the Ghaznavids of Afghanistan defeat the Samanids

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of Persia in Khurasan and the Qarakhanids seize Bukhara

1030: Mahmud Ghazni dies and the Ghaznavid empire declines

1038: the Seljuks, led by Toghrul Beg, defeat the Ghaznavids near Merv and invade Persia, moving their capital to Isfahan

1055: the Seljuks defeats the Buyids, invade Mesopotamia and install themselves in Baghdad under the suzerainty of the Abbasids

1091: the Seljuqs move their capital to Baghdad

1118: Mohammed I ibn Malikshah dies and the Seljuq empire breaks up into independent kingdoms in Iran, Iraq, Syria and Anatolia

1153: the Khwarazmis conquer Persia from the Seljuqs

1194: the last Persian Seljuq ruler dies and Seljuq power collapses in Iran

1220: the Mongols invade Transoxania (Bukhara and Samarkand) and Iran/Persia

1258: the Mongols destroy the Abbasid caliphate of Baghdad (killing 800,000 people including the last Abbasid caliph), conquer Persia, Mesopotamia and Syria and establishing an Ilkhanate with capital in Baghdad

1260: the Mamluks stop the Mongols in Syria and annex Syria

1263: the Mongol leader Hulegu assumes the title of "Ilkhan" as ruler of Persia

1274: the Persian astronomer Nasir Al-Din Tusi builds the Maraghah observatory

1294: Kublai Khan dies and the empire fragments in khanates, one of them being the Ilkhanate, descendants of Hulegu, with capital in Tabriz

1295: Ghazan, the Ilkhan, converts to Islam, and the Ilkhanate becomes a sultanate

1301: Shaykh Safi al-Din, founder of the Safavid dynasty, founds a sufi order in Uzbekistan

1335: Abu Said dies and the Ilkhanate disintegrates

1365: the turkic-speaking Timur overthrow the Chaghatai khanate and conquers Iran (Persia), the old Ilkhanate, establishing his capital in Samarkand

1351: the turkic-speaking Kara Quyunlu dynasty establishes itself over northwestern Iran

1406: the turkic-speaking Kara Quyunlu dynasty moves its capital to Tabriz

1413: Timur's empire begins to disintegrate

1447: the turkic-speaking Kara Quyunlu under Jahanshah

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conquer Shiraz

1469: the turkic-speaking Aq Quyunlu dynasty takes control of most of Persia

1501: Shah Ismail I (a 14-year old boy who claims to be a descendant of the 12th imam) unites Iran/Persia and most of Afghanistan, founds the Safavid dynasty with capital in Isfahan and declares Shiism as the state religion

1534: the Ottomans capture Baghdad

1555: the Ottoman empire conquers Mesopotamia from the Safavid empire

1587: Safavid king Shah Abbas I creates a gunpowder-based military force

1597: Safavid king Shah Abbas I moves the capital to Isfahan

1623: the Safavids capture Baghdad from the Ottomans

1638: the Ottomans capture Baghdad from the Safavids

1722: Mahmoud Khan, an Afghan chieftain, revolts against the Safavids, invades Iran/Persia and captures Isfahan, thus ending the Safavid dynasty

1729: Iranian/Persian general Nadir Shah expels the Afghans

1738: Iranian/Persian general Nadir Shah invades India and captures Delhi

1740: the Astrakhanid dynasty collapses and Uzebkistan and Turkmenistan are absorbed into Iran/Persia

1747: Nadir Shah is assassinated and Iran/Persia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan disintegrate

1747: Ahmad Shah Duran, the Afghan commander of Nadir's bodyguard, proclaims himself the ruler of Afghanistan with capital in Kandahar and founds the Durrani dynasty

1794: Agha Mohammad Qajar unifies Iran (Persia), Uzebkistan and Turkmenistan and founds the Qajar dynasty

1828: Iran (Persia) loses the Caucasus (Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan) to Russian

1879: Britain invades Afghanistan which becomes, de facto, a British colony

1881: Persia loses Turkmenistan to Russia

1907: Britain and Russia sign a treaty dividing Iran into respective spheres of influence

1911: Russia invades the northern provinces of Iran

1919: Afghanistan gains independence from Britain

1921: general Reza Khan seizes power in Persia with a coup

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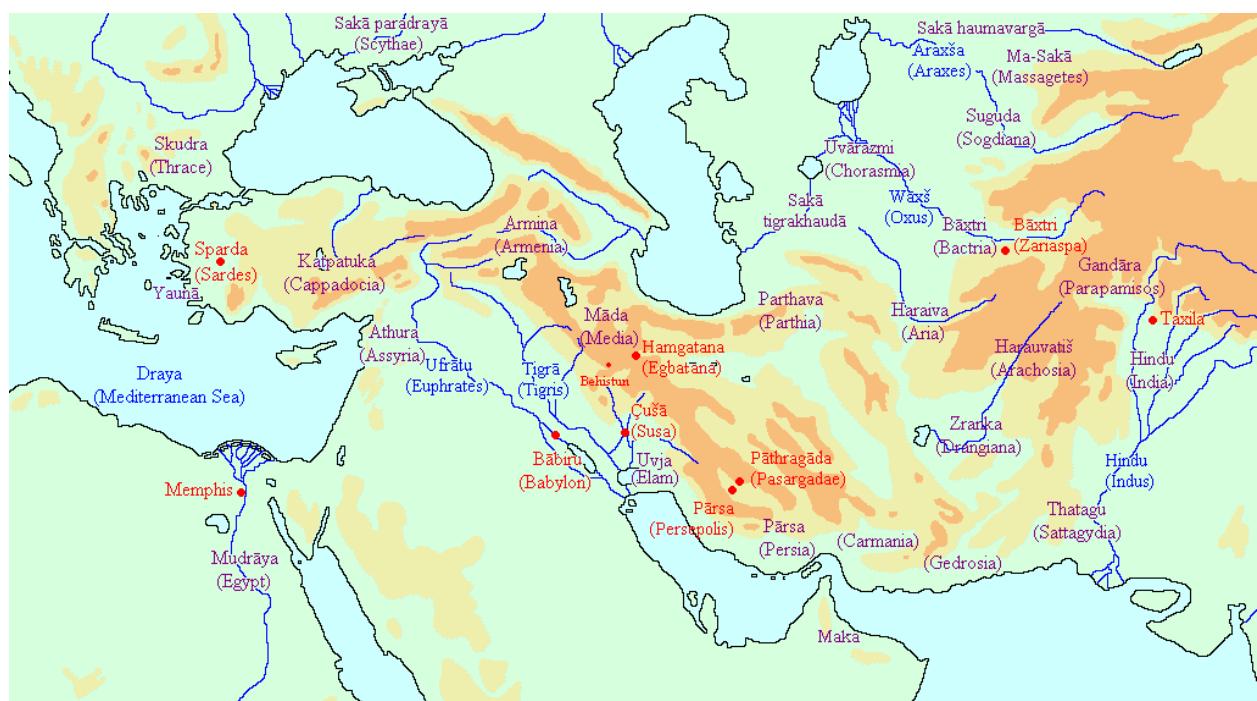
- 1933:** Zahir Shah becomes king of Afghanistan
- 1935:** Reza changes Persia's name to Iran
- 1941:** Reza Shah Pahlevi ascends to the throne of Iran when his father is deposed by British and Soviet troops for collaborating with the nazis
- 1946:** Britain and the Soviet Union withdraw from Iran
- 1951:** Mohammad Mossadegh becomes prime minister of Iran and nationalizes the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company
- 1953:** the USA's secret services engineer a coup to remove Iran's prime minister Mohammad Mossadegh
- 1962:** the shah Reza Pahlevi of Iran introduces a series of reforms (including women's suffrage) called "white revolution"
- 1979:** the shah Reza Pahlevi is overthrown by the Islamic Revolution and Iran becomes a theocratic republic led by the ayatollah Khomeini with a strong anti-American posture
- 1980:** Iraq (Saddam Hussein) attacks Iran (Khomeini)
- 1982:** the Hezbollah is founded by a radical shiite group with the mission of creating an Iranian-style Islamic republic in Lebanon
- 1983:** Iraq uses chemical weapons against Iranian troops
- 1985:** Hezbollah suicide commandos organized by Iran blow up the US and French barracks killing 241 marines and 58 French soldiers
- 1988:** a missile fired by an American warship downs an Iranian civilian plane and kills all 290 passengers aboard
- 1988:** terrorists backed by Libya blow up a Pan Am plane over Scotland killing 259 people probably on behalf of Iran
- 1988:** the war between Iraq and Iran that has cost about one million lives ends with no winner
- 1997:** Mohammad Khatami, a moderate, is elected president of Iran, but the ayatollahs still control the army
- 1999:** a raid on a Teheran student dormitory by Iranian police and right-wing vigilantes triggers student riots
- 2003:** militias of cleric Al-Sadr kill rival cleric Majeed Al-Khoei who just returned from his exile in Iran
- 2004:** Iran's ayatollahs outlaw most of the opposition candidates so that parliamentary elections are won by the conservative party
- 2004:** Iran is accused by the USA of trying to build a nuclear weapon and accepts to stop enriching uranium
- See [a time](#)

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ERAS

2700 BC - 559 BC: Elamites (Susa)
 900 BC - 550 BC: Medes
 700 BC - 331 BC: Achaemenids
 312 BC - 141 BC: Seleucids
 141 BC - 224 AD: Parthians
 224 AD - 650 AD: Sassanids
 650 AD - 650 AD: Arabs
 749 AD - 879 AD: Abbasids
 879 AD - 1038: Buyids/Abbasids
 1038 - 1194: Seljuks/Abbasids
 1258 - 1335: Mongols
 1365 - 1501: Timurids
 1501 - 1722: Safavids
 1794 - 1979: Qajar
 1979 - : Islamic republic

Persian Empire



- The Word “**Paradesia**” (of Parsagon) in Old Persian became “Paradise” in ancient Greek. It was a garden.
- 330 BC Persian Empire is conquered by Alexander the Great & Greece
- 4,000 BC 2 tribes began to take root in Northern Iranian plateau. Medes in the North and Persians in the South. Anshan → Persia
- They were originally nomadic, but as they became farmers they needed water. They found this water from rocks. “Aquafa”

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underground water. "How to bring water back to their people" A system of underground canals called "canots". 2000 years before Rome's aqueducts the Persians channeled great amounts of water over long distances across hot dry areas with minimal loss and leakage.

- Water means food. And this water was like a carrot dangled before neighboring tribes.
- Around 700 BC all the tribes were united under "Achaemenes."
- The eponym of this dynasty was Achaemenes (Old Persian: *Haxāmaniš*, a bahuvrihi compound translating to "having a friend's mind").
- Size of the Persian Empire= The Persian Empire was the largest empire by geographical extent in ancient times;^[1] at the height of its power, the empire encompassed approximately 8 million km²
- persian kings wished to be remembered as gardners. Gardens were held in such high esteem.
- Persia exceeded Rome in its height.
- Divided into satrapis or governorships
- Capital Pasargadae, Ecbatana, Persepolis, Susa, Babylon
 - On New Years Day, the vernal equinox, November 22, 30 representatives from the satrapis brought to Darius gifts: they brought different and lavishly. Bowls, animals, Ionian Greeks, Egyptians, Babylonians, Indians, etc exotic presents. Gift receiving was one way of ensuring the loyalty of their subjects.
- Gold and silver coins minted
- Persians were Zoroastrians, but were very tolerant and even encouraging toward other people's religions.
- There is shrine today at the supposed "tomb of Daniel"

Language(s) Old Persian, Imperial Aramaic, Elamite, Akkadian

Religion Zoroastrianism

Government Monarchy

King

- 559 BCE-529 BC Cyrus II the Great

Darius I the Great

- 336 BCE-330 BC Darius III

Historical era Ancient history

- Established ca. 550 BC

- Construction starts at Persepolis 515 BC

- Conquest of Egypt by Cambyses II 525 BC

- Greco-Persian Wars 498-448 BC

- Conquered during Wars of Alexander the Great 330 BC

- Darius III is killed by Bessus 330 BC

Currency Daric and Siglos

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Today part of Afghanistan

Armenia

Azerbaijan

Bulgaria

Cyprus

Egypt

Georgia

Greece

Iran

Iraq

Israel

Jordan

Kuwait

Lebanon

Libya

Macedonia

Pakistan

Template:Country data Palestinian Territories

Syria

Tajikistan

Turkey

Turkmenistan

Uzbekistan

KINGS OF PERSIA

Though, one of them was Teispes (I) son of Achaemenes & the other was Teispes (II) son of Cyrus & father of Ariaramnes. Secondly, [Darius the Great](#) says in the [Behistun Inscription](#):

"King Darius says: Eight of my dynasty were kings before me; I am the ninth. Nine in succession we have been kings."^[61]

- 1) Achaemenes
- 2) Teispes (I) king of Parsuash son of Achaemenes c.710- c.685 BCE
- 3) Cambyses (I) king of Parsuash son of Teispes (I) c.685- c.660 BCE
- 4) Cyrus (I) king of Parsuash son of Cambyses (I) c.660- c.635 BCE.
We can identify him as Cyrus the king of parsuash who sent his son Arukku to the Assyrian court.
- 5) Teispes (II) king of Anshan son of Cyrus (I) c.635- c.610 BCE
- 6) Cyrus (II) king of Anshan son of Teispes (II) c.610- c.585 BCE
- 7) Cambyses (II) king of Anshan son of Cyrus (II) c.585- 559 BCE
- 8) Cyrus (III) king of Anshan 559-550 BCE & the Great king 550- 530 BCE

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- 9) Darius the Great
- 10) Xerxes
- 11) Artaxerxes 465 BC

CYRUS THE GREAT

- Cyrus the Great dies in Battle 530 BC. (3 capitals at his death: Babylon, Susa, Ecbatana)
- First City he built, He was buried in, Pasargadae, Cyrus' tomb is relatively unadorned, simple, elegant, modest (36 feet tall)
- Cyrus the Great is the only gentile called "mashiyach" in the Hebrew Bible. Is this true?
- from 4886; anointed; usually a consecrated person (as a king, priest, or saint); specifically, the Messiah:--anointed, Messiah.
- Believed in Religious and cultural tolerance. Liberated the Jews from Babylon and allowed them to return to Israel. Toleration was the key word regarding religion in the vast Achumenid empire.
- Cyrus always had good press.
 - Historians "Humanist"
 - Greek Historian Zelophon 4 centruy bc greek historian: "A man of wisdom, resilant spirit and guilessness."
 - Bible called him "Mashiyach".
 - Persians "Father"
 - Conquered Ionian Greeks "Just and Worthy Lawgiver and Ruler"
- A time of chaos as a power struggle took place for the throne, no successor was named but eventually Darius surfaces as the strongest
- Famous for his love of gardens, His gardens were called **Paradasia**.

DARIUS THE GREAT

- Darius the Great (arguably the greatest Persian King)
- 30 nations were under Darius' power. He was called "the King of Kings"
- Distant cousin of Cyrus
- A general
- 550-486 BC, greatest Persian king, one of the greatest builders of all time
- Darius operated with 4 capitals and not one: Babylon, Susa, Ecbatana, (**Parsa**)/**Persepolis**
- Esther mentions Susa as capital, but Darius wanted a capital of his own = Persepolis or "Persian City" in greek. The terrace

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square was huge at 125,000 sq. m. Walls more than 60 feet high and 30 feet thick. Not by slaves but by PAID workers like Cyrus.

- o They were nomads living in tents, so citys were stone tents as it were, tent building
- o Apadona=stone tent building, magnificent audience hall
- o Pillars of stone, replacing cedar tent pillars
- o Gold silver adorning, expensive tapestries,
- o Halls filled with carved reliefs
- o Water and draining system, entire land was “engineered” dug, soil, drain pipes, underground water
- o Nestled in a plain of modern day Iran, Called by Alexander’s historian supposedly said by Alexander when he conquered Persepolis “richest city under the sun”.
- o 515 BC construction Started
- The royal Road, a stone road 111 rest stations and inns every 18 miles, watchmen were set for safety, Turkey to Iran 6to7 days on horseback, crosses rivers, mountains (no gutter system) , 2,600 km/. Susa-Persepolis-Sardis -Mediterranean shore
 - o Saftey,
 - o Encourage for Trade and its safety
 - o Also, allowed a speedy mail carrying service. The messengers could change their horses at eachstation and reach their destination sooner. A prelude to the Pony Express and Modern day Postal Systems
- Linked the Nile and the Red Sea “Darius Canal” east west 130 miles long, 7 years to complete, not all water, but ships rolled and transported to a deeper portion.
- 70000 men attacked Greece, linking asia to Europe by a system of ships, planks, anchors, took Macedonia
- Battle at Marathon, Greeks were outnumbered 10 to 1, legendary runner, Greeks won, Darius returned home but he dies on his way to quell a rebellion In Egypt in 486
- He name Xerxes his son as his successor.

Xerxes

- Right at his beginning had to deal with a rebellion in Egypt and in Babylon
- Then he attacked the Greeks. Why? Preemptive? Cleaning up business of his fathers loss at Marathon?
 - o Xerxes joined with the Carthaginian Navy
 - o A complex land sea assault
 - o Dug a canal in 6 months across the Isthmus

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- o Hellespont, copied Darius' pontoon, 476 ships, two large cables tieing the ships together, Asia to Europe, (Phosphorus? waters)
- o Greek general thermisticles
- o At Thermopile, Greeks stymied the massive Persian army
- o AT Athens, it was deserted, Tolerance had been the hallmark, but Xerxes burnt Athens to ground, in the morning ordered Athens to be rebuilt
- o At the same time thermisticles was setting his trap in the tiny bay of salamis, Greeks won decisively
- o Xerxes returned home defeated, no longer invincible.
- o Artemisia, sole navy female captain, escaped. Her survival skills impressed Xerxes so that he said "My men are becoming women and women are becoming men."
- o The Persian attack of Athens launched it into its Golden age, but left the Persian empire vulnerable. 480 BC Greeks won battle at Thermopole
- 480 BC Peak of Persian Empire
- 465 Xerxes died, leaving empire to Artaxerxes

Artaxerxes

- Persepolis still under construction
- Hall of 100 Columns, 200 by 200 feet, perfectly vertical, with only stone mallets and bronze chisels
- 353 BC 1 of the 7 wonders of the ancient world Mosuleum of Mosulus 135 feet tall
- Greece invaded Memphis, Artaxerxes left his building project at Persepolis to go to Memphis and return Egypt to Persian control. Last great battle victory of Persia.
- 424 BC Artaxerxes died leaving no successor, andis followed by 8 decades of internal fighting and struggle for power

Darius III

- A distant relative to Artaxerxes
- He is remembered as the king who lost an empire
- Darius III took power in 336 BC.
- His army was slowly pushed back by Greece
- Alexandar the Great had adopted Persia's policy of no pillaging and burning after victories, but at Persepolis was the exception. Burning, pillaging. Persepolis was burned as a symbolic gesture.
- Darius III escaped capture, but was murdered by close ally summer of 333 BC the last Achumenid King dead
- Alexander gave him a magnificent funeral and later married his daughter

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- Alexander named himself an “Achemenid King” and finished writing the story of the Persian Empire
- Alexander didn’t build an empire like Persia, He conquered one.

CYRUS CYLINDER

Material Baked clay

Size 22.5 centimetres (8.9 in) x 10 centimetres (3.9 in) (maximum) [1]

Writing Akkadian cuneiform script

Created About 539–530 BC

Period/culture Achaemenid Empire [1]

Discovered Babylon, Mesopotamia by Hormuzd Rassam in March 1879 [1]

Present location Room 55, British Museum, London

The Cyrus Cylinder is an ancient clay cylinder, now broken into several fragments, on which is written a declaration in Akkadian cuneiform script[2] in the name of the Achaemenid Persian king Cyrus the Great.[3] It dates from the 6th century BC, was discovered in the ruins of Babylon in 1879,[2] and is currently in the British Museum.

The UN promotes the Cyrus Cylinder as "an ancient declaration of human rights"[4]. The Cylinder was created following the Persian conquest of Babylon in 539 BC, when the Persian army under Cyrus invaded the Neo-Babylonian Empire and incorporated it into the Persian Empire. The text says that Cyrus entered the city in peace. The Babylonian king Nabonidus was defeated by the Persians and was deposed by Cyrus, who replaced him as ruler of Babylonia. The text on the Cylinder commemorates the Persian victory and praises Cyrus's kingly virtues, listing his genealogy as a king from a line of kings (maybe to mention the contrast with the low-born Nabonidus). The deposed king is denounced as an impious oppressor of the people of Babylonia. The victorious Cyrus is portrayed as having been chosen by the chief Babylonian god Marduk to restore peace and order to the Babylonians. The text says that Cyrus was welcomed by the people of Babylon as their new ruler and entered the city in peace. It appeals to Marduk to protect and to help Cyrus and his son Cambyses. It exalts Cyrus's efforts as a benefactor of the citizens of Babylonia who improved their lives, repatriated displaced peoples and restored temples and cult sanctuaries across Mesopotamia. It concludes with a description of the work of Cyrus in repairing the city wall of Babylon, in which he found a similar inscription by an earlier Babylonian king. [3]

The Assyro-British archaeologist Hormuzd Rassam discovered the Cylinder during an excavation carried out for the British Museum. It had been placed as a foundation deposit in the foundations of the Esagila, the city's main temple.[3] According to the British Museum,

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the Cylinder reflects a long tradition in Mesopotamia where, from as early as the third millennium BC, kings began their reigns with declarations of reforms.[5] Cyrus's declaration shows how he sought to obtain the loyalty of his new Babylonian subjects by stressing his legitimacy as king, and showing his respect for the religious and political traditions of Babylonia. It has widely been regarded as an instrument of ancient Mesopotamian propaganda,[6][7] most likely created by the Babylonian priests of Marduk working at the behest of Cyrus.[8]

The tradition of royal propaganda represented by the Cylinder was revived in the late 1960s when the last Shah of Iran called it "the world's first charter of human rights".[9] That interpretation has been disputed by many historians and has been characterised as anachronistic and tendentious,[10] reflecting a misunderstanding[11] of the Cylinder's status as a generic foundation deposit.[12] Nonetheless it became a key symbol of the Shah's political ideology[13] and has since come to be regarded as part of Iran's cultural identity.[6] The Cylinder has also been linked to the repatriation of the Jews following their Babylonian captivity,[5] a deed which the Book of Ezra attributes to Cyrus.[14] A passage referring to the restoration of cult sanctuaries and repatriation of deported peoples has been widely interpreted as evidence of a general policy under which the Jews were allowed to return home,[15] although it identifies only Mesopotamian sanctuaries, and makes no mention of Jews, Jerusalem or Judea (which other historians say it should, to qualify as such evidence).[16]

Zoroastrianism

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This article contains weasel words, vague phrasing that often accompanies biased or unverifiable information. Such statements should be clarified or removed. (January 2010)

Zoroastrianism

Zoroastrianism is a religion and philosophy based on the teachings of prophet Zoroaster (also known as Zarathustra, in Avestan). It was probably founded some time before the 6th century B.C. in Persia (Iran). The term Zoroastrianism is, in general usage, essentially synonymous with Mazdaism (the worship of Ahura Mazda, exalted by Zoroaster as the supreme divine authority).

In Zoroastrianism, the Creator Ahura Mazda is all good, and no evil originates from Him. Thus, in Zoroastrianism good and evil have distinct sources, with evil (druj) trying to destroy the creation of

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Mazda (asha), and good trying to sustain it. Mazda is not immanent in the world, and His creation is represented by the Amesha Spentas and the host of other Yazatas, through whom the works of God are evident to humanity, and through whom worship of Mazda is ultimately directed. The most important texts of the religion are those of the Avesta, of which a significant portion has been lost, and mostly only the liturgies of which have survived. The lost portions are known of only through references and brief quotations in the later works, primarily from the 9th to 11th centuries.

WOMEN IN OLD PERSIA

Over 3000 yrs ago in Persian heritage Men & Women were not different and they were equal.

Princesses, and Queens were seen as role models and every women in Persia were always side by side men, equally without any discrimination,

They were working together in persia for peace, freedom and glory. Many warrior ladies being captain of armies held the highest position in militaries, side by side with men, in the toughest wars, they fought with enemies.

- Empress Azamidkohht , Sassanid
- Empress Purandokht, Sassanid
- Shahbanu (Queen) Shirin, Sassanid
- Roxanna, Achaemenid
- Commander Apranik of Sassanid Army
- A general of Sassanid Army was a woman
- Achaemenid Female Warriors
- Achaemenid unit of Persian female warriors
- Immortal Commander Atteshbod, Pantea
- Achaemnid Dynasty Naval Commander ARTEMISIA

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Study Questions Two
Chapter 2: Persian Empire

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Quiz Two
Chapter 2: Persian Empire

Ch. 3 - Greek Empire

New Testament Introduction is a

III. THE GRECIAN PERIOD

A. Philip of Macedon

1. Father of Alexander the Great
2. Unified Greek city states
3. Died in 336 BC

B. Alexander the Great

1. Took command at 20 years of age - 336 BC
2. Conquered the known world - 331 BC
 - a. This was God ordained

Kjj
Kjj

b. Prophesied of in Daniel 2:39 (Approx. 600 BC)

“And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.”

- known
- 1) A precise prophetic word
 - 2) The Greek language spread to the world
 3. Showed kindness to the Jew

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- a. Spared Jerusalem
 - 1) God protected the city
 - 2) The future ministry of Jesus
 - b. Granted special privileges
 - 4. Developed many new cities
 - 5. Died in Babylon at the age of 33 - 323 BC
 - a. Babylon was intended to be his capital
 - b. Nothing left to conquer
- C. The Results of Alexander's Reign
- 1. Greece became an extraordinary power
 - 2. Greek culture flourished
 - a. Called Hellenism
 - b. Throughout the known world

III. THE GRECIAN EMPIRE DIVIDED

Four generals took over after Alexander's death. We will study the two that affected the Jews. Daniel saw in vision this four-way division of this empire. - Dan. 11:3-4

- A. Ptolemy
- 1. Centered in Egypt
(Alexandria its capital)
 - 2. Dominated Palestine for 120 years

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3. The Jews fared well during this period
 4. Succession of rulers
 - a. Referred to as the Ptolemies
 - b. Under Ptolemy Philadelphus
 1. Seventy-two Jewish scholars translated the Hebrew O.T. into Greek
 2. This is called The Septuagint
 - c. Cleopatra who died in 30 BC was the last of Ptolomaic dynasty
- B. Seleucus
1. Centered in Syria (Antioch its capital)
 2. Palestine is considered a land bridge
 - a. Connects three continents
 - 1) Europe
 - 2) Asia
 - 3) Africa
 - b. Palestine's central location makes it an important location to control
 - c. Located between Egypt and Syria

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- 1) Palestine became a victim of rivalry
- 2) Between the Ptolomies and the Seleucids
3. Succession of rulers
 - a. Referred to as the Seleucids
 - b. Antiochus III (Antiochus the Great)
 - 1) An anti-christ
 - 2) Hated the Jew
 - 3) Replaced the High priest
 - a) Became a political position
 - b) Sold to the highest bidder
 - c. Launched an invasion of Egypt
 - 1) Rome intervened
 - 2) Antiochus withdrew

IV. REVOLT OF THE MACCABEES

- A. Syrian rule was harsh to the Jew
 - 1. Religious persecution
 - 2. Anti- Christ spirit
- B. The Jews revolted against the Syrians
 - 1. Led by Mattathias
 - a. An aged priest
 - b. Withstood a Syrian official
 - c. Fled to the hills with his five sons
 - d. Organized successful warfare
 - 2. Judas the Hammer
 - a. Son of Mattathias
 - b. Became the leader when his father died
 - 1) Guerilla style warfare
 - 2) Retook Jerusalem
 - a) Repaired the temple
 - b) Restored the sacrifice
 - c. Received the surname of Maccabaeus
 - 1) From “maqqaba” - a hammer
 - 2) Probably due to his fierce fighting style

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C. The Jews were eventually granted their independence

1. Gained religious freedom
2. Jewish sects formed
 - a. Pharisees
 - b. Sadducees
3. Preparing the New Testament setting
 - a. Religious corruption
 - b. Political systems put in place

D. Defeated by the Romans in 63 BC

Greece

The history of Greece can be traced back to Stone Age hunters. Later came early farmers and the civilizations of the Minoan and Mycenaean kings. This was followed by a period of wars and invasions, known as the Dark Ages. In about 1100 BC, a people called the Dorians invaded from the north and spread down the west coast. In the period from 500-336 BC Greece was divided into small city states, each of which consisted of a city and its surrounding countryside.

There were only a few historians in the time of Ancient Greece. Three major ancient historians, were able to record their time of Ancient Greek history, that include Herodotus, known as the 'Father of History' who travelled to many ancient historic sites at the time, Thucydides and Xenophon.

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Most other forms of History knowledge and accountability of the ancient Greeks we know is because of temples, sculpture, pottery, artefacts and other archaeological findings.

NEOLITHIC PERIOD (6000 - 2900 BC)

According to historians and archeological findings, the Neolithic Age in Greece lasted from 6800 to 3200 BC. The most domesticated settlements were in Near East of Greece. They traveled mainly due to overpopulation. These people introduced pottery and animal husbandry in Greece. They may as well have traveled via the route of Black sea into Thrace, which then further leads to Macedonia, Thessaly, Boeotia etc. The second way of traveling into Greece is from one island to another and such type of colonies has been found in Knossos and Kythnos... more »

EARLY BRONZE AGE (2900 - 2000BC)

The Greek Bronze Age or the Early Helladic Era started around 2800 BC and lasted till 1050 BC in Crete while in the Aegean islands it started in 3000 BC. The Bronze Age in Greece is divided into periods such as Helladic I, II. The information that is available today on the Bronze Age in Greece is from the architecture, burial styles and lifestyle. The colonies were made of 300 to 1000 people... more »

Minoan Age(2000 - 1400 BC)

Bronze Age civilization, centring on the island of Crete. It was named after the legendary king Minos. It is divided into three periods: the early Minoan period (c.3000-2200 B.C.), the Middle Minoan period (c.2200-1500 B.C.) and the Late Minoan period (c.1500-1000 B.C.).

- * Middle Minoan Crete
- * The Minoans
- * The History of The Minoans

Mycenaean Age (600 - 1100 BC)

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Period of high cultural achievement, forming the backdrop and basis for subsequent myths of the heroes. It was named for the kingdom of Mycenae and the archaeological site where fabulous works in gold were unearthed. The Mycenaean Age was cut short by widespread destruction ushering in the Greek Dark Age.... more »

The Dark Ages (1100 - 750 BC)

- The period between the fall of the Mycenaean civilizations and the readoption of writing in the eighth or seventh century BC. After the Trojan Wars the Mycenaeans went through a period of civil war, the country was weak and a tribe called the Dorians took over. Some speculate that Dorian invaders from the north with iron weapons laid waste the Mycenaean culture. Others look to internal dissent, uprising and rebellion, or perhaps some combination.

* The Greek Dark Ages

A chapter on the history and culture of the Greek Dark Ages.

* The Dorians

one of the three main groups of people of ancient Greece, the others being the Aeolians and the Ionians, who invaded from the north in the 12th and 11th centuries BC.

Archaic Period (750 - 500 BC)

The Archaic Period in Greece refers to the years between 750 and 480 B.C., more particularly from 620 to 480 B.C. The age is defined through the development of art at this time, specifically through the style of pottery and sculpture, showing the specific characteristics that would later be developed into the more naturalistic style of the Classical period. The Archaic is one of five periods that Ancient Greek history can be divided into; it was preceded by the Dark Ages and followed by the Classical period. The Archaic period saw advancements in political theory, especially the beginnings of democracy, as well as in culture and art. The

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knowledge and use of written language which was lost in the Dark Ages was re-established.

Classical Period (500-336 BC) - Classical period of ancient Greek history, is fixed between about 500 B. C., when the Greeks began to come into conflict with the kingdom of Persia to the east, and the death of the Macedonian king and conqueror Alexander the Great in 323 B.C. In this period Athens reached its greatest political and cultural heights: the full development of the democratic system of government under the Athenian statesman Pericles; the building of the Parthenon on the Acropolis; the creation of the tragedies of Sophocles, Aeschylus and Euripides; and the founding of the philosophical schools of Socrates and Plato.

* Archaic and Classical Greek History

Hellenistic Period (336-146 BC) - period between the conquest of the Persian Empire by Alexander the Great and the establishment of Roman supremacy, in which Greek culture and learning were pre-eminent in the Mediterranean and Asia Minor. It is called Hellenistic (Greek, Hellas, "Greece") to distinguish it from the Hellenic culture of classical Greece.

* Hellenistic Greece
* Hellenic and Hellenistic Societies

Chronology sites:

* Greek Chronology Greece 1200 - 300 B.C
* Chronology: Greece

Herodotus
Herodotus
Born c. 484 BC

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Halicarnassus, Caria, Asia Minor

Died c. 425 BC (aged around 59)
Thurii, Calabria or Pella, Macedon

Occupation Historian

Herodotus (Greek: Ἡρόδοτος Hēródotos) was an ancient Greek historian who lived in the 5th century BC (c. 484 BC – c. 425 BC). He was born in Caria, Halicarnassus (modern day Bodrum, Turkey). He is regarded as the "Father of History" in Western culture. He was the first historian known to collect his materials systematically, test their accuracy to a certain extent and arrange them in a well-constructed and vivid narrative.[1] He is exclusively known for writing *The Histories*, a record of his "inquiry" (or ιστορία historia, a word that passed into Latin and took on its modern meaning of history) into the origins of the Greco-Persian Wars which occurred in 490 and 480-479 BC—especially since he includes a narrative account of that period, which would otherwise be poorly documented;

General history sites:

- * The History of Ancient Greece
- * History of Macedonia
- * The unknown Ancient Hellenic History
- * Internet Ancient History Sourcebook Greece and Hellenism

3300-1000 BCE: Greece - The earliest known prehistoric civilizations occupy the Aegean world. This period marks the rise and fall of the MINOAN and MYCENAEAN civilization.

2200 BCE: Greece - Indo-European invaders, speaking the earliest forms of Greek, enter the mainland of Greece, and the MYCENAEAN CIVILIZATION (named after the leading Greek city on the peninsula from 1600-1200 BCE) emerges.

2000-1500 BCE: Greece - MINOAN CIVILIZATION (named after the Cretan ruler Minos) reaches its height with its central power in Knossos on the island of Crete. This culture is apparently more female-oriented and peaceful than others at the time.

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1400 BCE: Greece - MYCENAEAN CIVILIZATION replaces MINOAN CIVILIZATION after the destruction of Knossos. Bronze weapons, war-scenes on art, Cyclopean defence walls, and the fact that male warriors were buried with their weapons provide evidence for the claim that the Mycenaeans were militaristic. The horse-drawn chariot emerges around this time. The Mycenaeans dominate the Aegean world for about 200 years.

1250 BCE: Greece - Though this is disputed, some scholars believe that the MYCENAEANS wage war with the Trojans of western Asia Minor and are successful. By 1100 BCE they are overtaken by barbaric Dorian invaders who are using iron weapons. From this point, Greek culture enters the so-called Dark Ages, characterized by the disappearance of writing and a decline in architecture and other aspects of material culture. The period lasts until about 800 BCE. The two Homeric epics, The Iliad and The Odyssey, are often used by scholars as evidence of the traditions and institutions in place during this time. However, such use is strongly contested.

800 BCE: Greece - Increase in trade and the establishment of governmental defense fortifications allows for the emergence of Greek city-states from tribal communities. These grow up around marketplaces and include ATHENS, Thebes and Megara on the Greek mainland. The Greek city-states are considered the most famous units of Greek political life to develop in this society.

800-500 BCE: Greece - This period, often referred to as the Archaic period, marks the developments of literature and the arts, politics, philosophy and science. The Peloponnesian city of Corinth, SPARTA and cities along the coast of the Aegean Sea flourish. For the most part, the Greek city-states are similar in their political evolution, with the exception of Sparta's elite dictatorship. Most begin their political histories as monarchies, evolve to oligarchies, are overthrown during the age of the tyrants (650-500 BCE) and eventually establish democracies in the sixth and fifth centuries. Of the Greek city-states, ATHENS and Sparta were the two most important.

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700 BCE: Greece - HESIOD, Greece's second poet (after HOMER) and the first poet to name himself, is composing his poetry. His most important works are The Theogony and Works and Days.

640 BCE: Greece - Sparta's form of government, which is adapted from the Dorians, is heavily influenced by militarism. The Messenian wars initiate Sparta's fear of change. They remain an isolated people, primarily by banning trade and discouraging travel outside of Spartan territory. Alcaeus, Greek lyric poet, is born in Mytilene on the island of Lesbos. His lyrics expound on contemporary politics, love, hymns to Apollo and Hermes, and include some drinking songs.

612 BCE: Greece - Sappho, Greek lyric poet of Lesbos, is born. The most famous female poet of the ancient world, Sappho is inscribed in the Palatine Anthology among the Muses, rather than among the great lyric poets, in the second century BCE. Her lyric poetry includes the exploration of female sexuality, female values in a male dominated society, and love.

594 BCE: Greece - Solon, the great elegiac poet, is appointed chief magistrate of ATHENS. His reforms include both political and economical adjustments which lead to dissatisfaction in the upper and lower classes.

585 BCE: Greece - In Miletus, the founding city of philosophy, Thales predicts a total eclipse of the sun. The founder of the Melesian school, Thales, teaches that all things are composed of moisture; he is the first to put forth a rational explanation of the cosmos. By the end of the sixth century, philosophers begin to question the metaphysical nature of the cosmos with inquiries into the nature of being, the meaning of truth, and the relationship between the divine and the physical world.

546 BCE: Greece - The first of the Athenian tyrants, Peisistratus, replaces Solon as ruler.

530 BCE: Greece - Pythagoras and his followers found the city of Croton and combine philosophy and literature with political activity as the foundation of their community. Pythagoras, mathematician and philosopher, is credited

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with the Pythagorean theorem and the Pythagorean table of opposites (the "dualism" that underlies Greek thought).

525 BCE: Greece - Greek drama grows out of the Dionysian festivals. The plays of AESCHYLUS are considered to be the beginning of this long history of tragic drama. His stories are drawn from conflicts between the individual and the cosmos.

518 BCE: Greece - Pindar, considered by some to be the greatest Greek lyric poet, is born in Cynoscephalae, Boeotia. Pindar's odes celebrate games held at the religious festivals of Greece. Athletic victory serves as the ground for his poetic fancy and his religious, moral, and aesthetic insights. He dies in 438 BCE.

515 BCE: Greece - Parmenides of Elea is born. He is the founder of the Eleatic school in the Phocaeian colony in southern Italy. He is the first to focus attention on the central problem of Greek metaphysics: the nature of being. For Parmenides, the laws governing the universe are stable. Change is merely an illusion.

510 BCE: Greece - Hippias, the son of Peisistratus, succeeds his father and is overthrown by a group of nobles with the help of SPARTA.

508 BCE: Greece - Cleisthenes, the father of Athenian democracy, rules ATHENS. His reforms grant full rights to all free men of Athens.

500 BCE: Greece - The height of Greek sculpture begins with the work of Phidias. His masterpieces include the statue of Athena in the PARTHENON, the Parthenon reliefs and the statue of Zeus in the Temple of Olympian Zeus. The second most important sculptor, Myron, is renowned for his statue of the discus thrower.

490 BCE: Greece - Lasting until 479 BCE, the Greeks initiate war with Persia when Persia, at this time the strongest power in western Asia, establishes rule over Greek-speaking cities in Asia Minor. The PERSIAN WARS are commonly regarded as among the most significant in all of history. Darius the Great is defeated at the battle of Marathon in 490 BCE. The Greeks emerge victorious and put an end to the possibility of Persian despotism.

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486 BCE: Greece - A contemporary of Darius the Persian, Heraclitus of Ephesus lives somewhere around this time. For Heraclitus, reality is flux which originated out of fire (as opposed to Parmenides' "stable" reality -- see 515 BCE). PLATO credits Heraclitus for saying, "One cannot step into the same river twice." Heraclitus was also known as "the obscure."

485 BCE: Greece - Accompanying the high point of democracy in ATHENS is a Greek intellectual revolution, with its beginnings in Sophism. The Sophists situate ethics and politics within philosophical discourse which, before, was limited to physics and metaphysics alone. The leading Sophist, Protagoras, states his famous doctrine: "Man is the measure of all things." For him, all truth, goodness, beauty, etc. are relative to man's necessities and inquiries. Emerging in opposition to the Sophists are Socrates, PLATO and ARISTOTLE, each of whom offers alternatives to the Sophists' relativism.

484 BCE: Greece - The father of history, Herodotus, is born. He is author of a nine-book History of the Persian War and a book dedicated to his travels through Egypt. He dies in 420.

478 BCE: Greece - ATHENS joins with other Greek city-states in the formation of the DELIAN LEAGUE. The League continues even after the end of the PERSIAN WARS and transforms into a naval empire with Athens as its leader.

469 BCE: Greece - SOPHOCLES is born. He is the second Greek dramatist, following AESCHYLUS, and is considered by some to be the greatest of the Greek dramatists. His works include Oedipus Rex and Antigone. He dies in 406 BCE. This year also marks the birth of Socrates, a philosopher of ethics who leaves no written philosophy. He is the major critic of popular belief in ATHENS and is the protagonist of Plato's dialogues. He is condemned to death in 399 BCE on the charges of corrupting the youth and introducing new gods into Greek thought.

461-429 BCE: Greece - During this "Age of Pericles," Athenian democracy reaches perfection, and the court systems are completed. A jury system is put in place with the jury serving as absolute authority in judicial matters.

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448 BCE: Greece - ARISTOPHANES, considered by some to be the greatest Greek comedy writer, is born. He dies in 380 BCE. Greek comedy, like Greek tragedy, originates out of the Dionysian festivals.

431-404 BCE: Greece - During the PELOPONNESIAN WAR between ATHENS and SPARTA, the political supremacy of Athens is ended. Athenian trade is destroyed. Athenian democracy is overthrown, and Athens is forced to surrender to Sparta as a subject state. Sparta assumes dominance over the Greek world and replaces many Greek democracies with oligarchies. The two major causes of the war are Athens' growth in imperialism and the economic and cultural differences between Athens and Sparta. Between 404 and 338, Sparta is not able to persist in the rule of Greece. Power over Greece shifts from Sparta to Thebes and then to numerous other city-states, none able to maintain rule over such a large empire.

427 BCE: Greece - PLATO, Socrates' most distinguished student, is born. He is a prolific writer and is considered by some to be the most important of all philosophers. Among his most noted works are The Apology, The Symposium, The Phaedo, The Phaedrus, and The Republic. His written works are in dialogue form. He dies in 347 BCE.

406 BCE: Greece - EURIPIDES dies. Born in 480 BCE, he is the last of the tragic dramatists. His contribution to the history of Greek tragedy is his creation of a drama that deals with situations analogous to human life.

384 BCE: Greece - Plato's most distinguished student, ARISTOTLE, is born. He enters Plato's Academy at the age of seventeen. After spending several years as tutor to Alexander the Great, Aristotle returns to ATHENS and founds the Lyceum. Among his writings are treatises on logic, metaphysics, ethics, politics, rhetoric and several on natural sciences. He dies in 322 BCE.

350 BCE: Greece - HELLENISTIC GREECE witnesses the new philosophy of the Cynics. Their leader, Diogenes, puts forth the first argument against conventional life. The Cynics believe that people should live naturally and strive for self-sufficiency.

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343 BCE: Greece - The greatest dramatist of HELLENISTIC GREECE, Menander, follows the comedic genre put forth by ARISTOPHANES (the subject of which is romantic love).

338 BCE: Greece - Philip of Macedon, Alexander the Great's father, conquers Greece and is succeeded by his son two years later. At age twenty-two, Alexander begins his campaign to acquire new territory in Asia. Within four years, Alexander conquers the entire Persian Empire (including Asia Minor, Egypt, Persia, Syria and Mesopotamia). Alexander continues his campaign farther east and eventually returns to Persia in 323 BCE, where he dies of fever in Babylon. Before his death, Alexander was the ruler of the largest empire the world had seen.

HELLENISTIC GREECE, a combination of Greek and western Asian cultures, lasts from Alexander's time until the beginning of the Christian era.

323 BCE: Greece - Alexander leaves no successors, and the highest generals engage in many wars which result in the decisive battle of Ipsus in 301 BCE. The empire is divided into four major states under the separate rules of Seleucus, Lysimachus, Cassander and Ptolemy. Greek cities revolt against Macedonian rule but to no avail. The next four hundred years witness the growth of large cities and Hellenistic international trade.

300 BCE: Greece - Epicureanism and Stoicism both originate in ATHENS. Both Epicurus (342-270 BCE) and Zeno, the Stoic (not to be confused with Zeno of Elea), believe in an individualistic and materialistic philosophy. Neither believe in spiritual substances. The soul is thought to be material. The Epicureans believe that pleasure is the highest good, and only by abandoning the fear of the supernatural can one achieve tranquillity of mind. The Stoics believe that tranquillity of mind is only achieved by surrendering the self to the order of the cosmos.

310 BCE: Greece - Hellenistic astronomy is founded by Aristarchus of Samos. His major contribution to Hellenistic thought is his theory that the earth and all other planets revolve around the sun, contrary to ARISTOTLE.

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200 BCE: Greece - Under the influence of Carneades, Skepticism arises with doctrines closely tied to Sophism. They teach that because all knowledge is achieved through sense perception, nothing can be known for sure.

146-30 BCE: Greece - Between these years, nearly all Hellenistic territory becomes subject to Roman rule.

Greece

The history of Greece can be traced back to Stone Age hunters. Later came early farmers and the civilizations of the Minoan and Mycenaean kings. This was followed by a period of wars and invasions, known as the Dark Ages. In about 1100 BC, a people called the Dorians invaded from the north and spread down the west coast. In the period from 500-336 BC Greece was divided into small city states, each of which consisted of a city and its surrounding countryside.

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The Dark Ages (1100 - 750 BC)

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- * The Greek Dark Ages
 - A chapter on the history and culture of the Greek Dark Ages.
- * The Dorians
 - one of the three main groups of people of ancient Greece, the others being the Aeolians and the Ionians, who invaded from the north in the 12th and 11th centuries BC.

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Classical Period (500-336 BC) - Classical period of ancient Greek history, is fixed between about 500 B. C., when the Greeks began to come into conflict with the kingdom of Persia to the east, and the death of the Macedonian king and conqueror Alexander the Great in 323 B.C. In this period Athens reached its greatest political and cultural heights: the full development of the democratic system of government under the Athenian statesman Pericles; the building of the Parthenon on the Acropolis; the creation of the tragedies of Sophocles, Aeschylus and Euripides; and the founding of the philosophical schools of Socrates and Plato.

* Archaic and Classical Greek History

Hellenistic Period (336-146 BC) - period between the conquest of the Persian Empire by Alexander the Great and the establishment of Roman supremacy, in which Greek culture and learning were pre-eminent in the Mediterranean and Asia Minor. It is called Hellenistic (Greek, Hellas, "Greece") to distinguish it from the Hellenic culture of classical Greece.

* Hellenistic Greece
* Hellenic and Hellenistic Societies

Chronology sites:

* Greek Chronology Greece 1200 - 300 B.C
* Chronology: Greece
C. Greece became an extraordinary power
1. Greek culture flourished (Language spread)
a. Called Hellenism
b. Throughout the known world
c. Knowledge of the Greek still prevalent today
2. Controlled the known world
(By N.T. times Greek was the street language even in Rome)

III. THE GRECIAN EMPIRE DIVIDED

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Four generals took over after Alexander's death. We will study the two that affected the Jews. Daniel saw in vision this four-way division of this empire. Dan. 11:3-4

- A. Ptolemy (Plotlemies) - succession of rulers
 - 1. Centered in Egypt. - Alexandria its capital
 - 2. Dominated Palestine for 120 years
 - 3. The Jews fared well during this period
 - 4. Cleopatra who died in 30 B.C. was the last of the Ptolomaic dynasty

[Under Ptolemy Philadelphus 72 Jewish scholars translated the Hebrew O.T.
into Greek - the Septuagint]

- B. Seleucid
 - 1. Centered in Syria - Antioch its capital
 - (Located between Egypt and Syria, Palestine became a victim of rivalry
 - between the Ptolomies and the Seleucids)
 - 2. Antiochus III (Antiochus the Great)
 - a. An anti-christ
 - b. Hated the Jew
 - c. Replaced the high priest
 - [Replaced Onias III with Onias' brother Jason - A Hellenizer who wanted
 - to turn Jerusalem into a Greek city state]
 - d. A gymnasium was built in Jerusalem (Under Jason)
 - 1) Jewish young men exercised nude in Greek fashion
 - 2) Track races opened with invocations to pagan gods
 - 3) Many Jewish priests attended these events
 - e. Replaced Jason with Menelaus, another Hellenizer who offered Antiochus
 - higher tribute for the office.

Jews who opposed the paganization their culture were called

Hasidim or Hasideans - "pious people.". These pious Jews resented the

selling of this sacred office to the highest bidder.

- f. Launched an invasion of Egypt
 - 1. Rome intervened
 - Outside Alexandria (the capital of the Ptolomies) a Roman envoy

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drew a circle around Antiochus and demanded that before he step out of the circle he promise to leave Egypt with his troops. Antiochus, who had been a hostage for twelve years in Rome, withdrew his men not wanting to face the wrath of the powerful Romans.

Herodotus

Herodotus	
Born	c. 484 BC Halicarnassus , Caria , Asia Minor
Died	c. 425 BC (aged around 59) Thurii , Calabria or Pella , Macedon
Occupation	Historian

Herodotus ([Greek](#): Ἡρόδοτος *Hērōdotos*) was an ancient Greek [historian](#) who lived in the 5th century BC ([c. 484 BC](#) – c. 425 BC). He was born in Caria, Halicarnassus (modern day [Bodrum](#), [Turkey](#)). He is regarded as the "Father of [History](#)" in Western culture. He was the first historian known to collect his materials systematically, test their accuracy to a certain extent and arrange them in a well-constructed and vivid narrative.^[1] He is exclusively known for writing [*The Histories*](#), a record of his "inquiry" (or *iστορία* *historía*, a [word](#) that passed into Latin and took on its modern meaning of *history*) into the origins of the [Greco-Persian Wars](#) which occurred in 490 and 480–479 BC—especially since he includes a [narrative](#) account of that period, which would otherwise be poorly documented;

General history sites:

- * The History of Ancient Greece
- * History of Macedonia
- * The unknown Ancient Hellenic History
- * Internet Ancient History Sourcebook – Greece and Hellenism

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3300-1000 BCE: Greece - The earliest known prehistoric civilizations occupy the Aegean world. This period marks the rise and fall of the [MINOAN](#) and [MYCENAEAN](#) civilization.

2200 BCE: Greece - Indo-European invaders, speaking the earliest forms of Greek, enter the mainland of Greece, and the [MYCENAEAN CIVILIZATION](#) (named after the leading Greek city on the peninsula from [1600-1200 BCE](#)) emerges.

2000-1500 BCE: Greece - [MINOAN CIVILIZATION](#) (named after the Cretan ruler Minos) reaches its height with its central power in Knossos on the island of Crete. This culture is apparently more female-oriented and peaceful than others at the time.

1400 BCE: Greece - [MYCENAEAN CIVILIZATION](#) replaces [MINOAN CIVILIZATION](#) after the destruction of Knossos. Bronze weapons, war-scenes on art, Cyclopean defence walls, and the fact that male warriors were buried with their weapons provide evidence for the claim that the Mycenaeans were militaristic. The horse-drawn chariot emerges around this time. The Mycenaeans dominate the Aegean world for about 200 years.

1250 BCE: Greece - Though this is disputed, some scholars believe that the [MYCENAEANS](#) wage war with the Trojans of western Asia Minor and are successful. By [1100 BCE](#) they are overtaken by barbaric Dorian invaders who are using iron weapons. From this point, Greek culture enters the so-called Dark Ages, characterized by the disappearance of writing and a decline in architecture and other aspects of material culture. The period lasts until about [800 BCE](#). The two Homeric epics, [The Iliad](#) and [The Odyssey](#), are often used by scholars as evidence of the traditions and institutions in place during this time. However, such use is strongly contested.

800 BCE: Greece - Increase in trade and the establishment of governmental defense fortifications allows for the emergence of Greek city-states from tribal communities. These grow up around marketplaces and include [ATHENS](#), Thebes and Megara on the Greek mainland. The Greek city-states are considered the most famous units of Greek political life to develop in this society.

800-500 BCE: Greece - This period, often referred to as the Archaic period, marks the developments of literature and the arts, politics, philosophy and science. The Peloponnesian city of Corinth, [SPARTA](#) and cities along the coast of the Aegean Sea flourish. For the most part, the Greek city-states are similar in their political evolution, with the exception of Sparta's elite dictatorship. Most begin their political

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histories as monarchies, evolve to oligarchies, are overthrown during the age of the tyrants ([650-500 BCE](#)) and eventually establish democracies in the sixth and fifth centuries. Of the Greek city-states, [ATHENS](#) and Sparta were the two most important.

[700 BCE: Greece](#) - [HESIOD](#), Greece's second poet (after [HOMER](#)) and the first poet to name himself, is composing his poetry. His most important works are [The Theogony](#) and [Works and Days](#).

[640 BCE: Greece](#) - Sparta's form of government, which is adapted from the Dorians, is heavily influenced by militarism. The Messenian wars initiate Sparta's fear of change. They remain an isolated people, primarily by banning trade and discouraging travel outside of Spartan territory. Alcaeus, Greek lyric poet, is born in Mytilene on the island of Lesbos. His lyrics expound on contemporary politics, love, hymns to Apollo and Hermes, and include some drinking songs.

[612 BCE: Greece](#) - [Sappho](#), Greek lyric poet of Lesbos, is born. The most famous female poet of the ancient world, Sappho is inscribed in the *Palatine Anthology* among the Muses, rather than among the great lyric poets, in the second century BCE. Her lyric poetry includes the exploration of female sexuality, female values in a male dominated society, and love.

[594 BCE: Greece](#) - Solon, the great elegiac poet, is appointed chief magistrate of [ATHENS](#). His reforms include both political and economical adjustments which lead to dissatisfaction in the upper and lower classes.

[585 BCE: Greece](#) - In Miletus, the founding city of philosophy, Thales predicts a total eclipse of the sun. The founder of the Melesian school, Thales, teaches that all things are composed of moisture; he is the first to put forth a rational explanation of the cosmos. By the end of the sixth century, philosophers begin to question the metaphysical nature of the cosmos with inquiries into the nature of being, the meaning of truth, and the relationship between the divine and the physical world.

[546 BCE: Greece](#) - The first of the Athenian tyrants, Peisistratus, replaces Solon as ruler.

[530 BCE: Greece](#) - [Pythagoras](#) and his followers found the city of Croton and combine philosophy and literature with political activity as the foundation of their community. Pythagoras, mathematician and philosopher, is credited with the Pythagorean theorem and the

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Pythagorean table of opposites (the "dualism" that underlies Greek thought).

525 BCE: Greece - Greek drama grows out of the Dionysian festivals. The plays of [AESCHYLUS](#) are considered to be the beginning of this long history of tragic drama. His stories are drawn from conflicts between the individual and the cosmos.

518 BCE: Greece - Pindar, considered by some to be the greatest Greek lyric poet, is born in Cynoscephalae, Boeotia. Pindar's odes celebrate games held at the religious festivals of Greece. Athletic victory serves as the ground for his poetic fancy and his religious, moral, and aesthetic insights. He dies in [438 BCE](#).

515 BCE: Greece - [Parmenides of Elea](#) is born. He is the founder of the Eleatic school in the Phocaeon colony in southern Italy. He is the first to focus attention on the central problem of Greek metaphysics: the nature of being. For Parmenides, the laws governing the universe are stable. Change is merely an illusion.

510 BCE: Greece - Hippias, the son of Peisistratus, succeeds his father and is overthrown by a group of nobles with the help of [SPARTA](#).

508 BCE: Greece - Cleisthenes, the father of Athenian democracy, rules [ATHENS](#). His reforms grant full rights to all free men of Athens.

500 BCE: Greece - The height of Greek sculpture begins with the work of Phidias. His masterpieces include the statue of Athena in the [PARTHENON](#), the Parthenon reliefs and the statue of Zeus in the Temple of Olympian Zeus. The second most important sculptor, Myron, is renowned for his statue of the discus thrower.

490 BCE: Greece - Lasting until [479 BCE](#), the Greeks initiate war with Persia when Persia, at this time the strongest power in western Asia, establishes rule over Greek-speaking cities in Asia Minor. The [PERSIAN WARS](#) are commonly regarded as among the most significant in all of history. Darius the Great is defeated at the battle of Marathon in [490 BCE](#). The Greeks emerge victorious and put an end to the possibility of Persian despotism.

486 BCE: Greece - A contemporary of Darius the Persian, Heraclitus of Ephesus lives somewhere around this time. For Heraclitus, reality is flux which originated out of fire (as opposed to Parmenides' "stable" reality -- see [515 BCE](#)). [PLATO](#) credits Heraclitus for saying, "One cannot step into the same river twice." Heraclitus was also known as "the obscure."

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485 BCE: Greece - Accompanying the high point of democracy in [ATHENS](#) is a Greek intellectual revolution, with its beginnings in Sophism. The [Sophists](#) situate ethics and politics within philosophical discourse which, before, was limited to physics and metaphysics alone. The leading Sophist, [Protagoras](#), states his famous doctrine: "Man is the measure of all things." For him, all truth, goodness, beauty, etc. are relative to man's necessities and inquiries. Emerging in opposition to the Sophists are Socrates, [PLATO](#) and [ARISTOTLE](#), each of whom offers alternatives to the Sophists' relativism.

484 BCE: Greece - The father of history, Herodotus, is born. He is author of a nine-book [History of the Persian War](#) and a book dedicated to his travels through Egypt. He dies in [420](#).

478 BCE: Greece - [ATHENS](#) joins with other Greek city-states in the formation of the [DELIAN LEAGUE](#). The League continues even after the end of the [PERSIAN WARS](#) and transforms into a naval empire with Athens as its leader.

469 BCE: Greece - [SOPHOCLES](#) is born. He is the second Greek dramatist, following [AESCHYLUS](#), and is considered by some to be the greatest of the Greek dramatists. His works include *Oedipus Rex* and [Antigone](#). He dies in [406 BCE](#). This year also marks the birth of Socrates, a philosopher of ethics who leaves no written philosophy. He is the major critic of popular belief in [ATHENS](#) and is the protagonist of Plato's dialogues. He is condemned to death in [399 BCE](#) on the charges of corrupting the youth and introducing new gods into Greek thought.

461-429 BCE: Greece - During this "Age of Pericles," Athenian democracy reaches perfection, and the court systems are completed. A jury system is put in place with the jury serving as absolute authority in judicial matters.

448 BCE: Greece - [ARISTOPHANES](#), considered by some to be the greatest Greek comedy writer, is born. He dies in [380 BCE](#). Greek comedy, like Greek tragedy, originates out of the Dionysian festivals.

431-404 BCE: Greece - During the [PELOPONNESIAN WAR](#) between [ATHENS](#) and [SPARTA](#), the political supremacy of Athens is ended. Athenian trade is destroyed. Athenian democracy is overthrown, and Athens is forced to surrender to Sparta as a subject state. Sparta assumes dominance over the Greek world and replaces many Greek democracies with oligarchies. The two major causes of the war are Athens' growth in imperialism and the economic and cultural differences between Athens and Sparta. Between [404](#) and [338](#), Sparta

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is not able to persist in the rule of Greece. Power over Greece shifts from Sparta to Thebes and then to numerous other city-states, none able to maintain rule over such a large empire.

427 BCE: **Greece** - [PLATO](#), Socrates' most distinguished student, is born. He is a prolific writer and is considered by some to be the most important of all philosophers. Among his most noted works are *The Apology*, [The Symposium](#), [The Phaedo](#), [The Phaedrus](#), and [The Republic](#). His written works are in dialogue form. He dies in [347 BCE](#).

406 BCE: **Greece** - [EURIPIDES](#) dies. Born in [480 BCE](#), he is the last of the tragic dramatists. His contribution to the history of Greek tragedy is his creation of a drama that deals with situations analogous to human life.

384 BCE: **Greece** - Plato's most distinguished student, [ARISTOTLE](#), is born. He enters [Plato's Academy](#) at the age of seventeen. After spending several years as tutor to Alexander the Great, Aristotle returns to [ATHENS](#) and founds the Lyceum. Among his writings are treatises on logic, metaphysics, ethics, politics, rhetoric and several on natural sciences. He dies in [322 BCE](#).

350 BCE: **Greece** - [HELLENISTIC GREECE](#) witnesses the new philosophy of the Cynics. Their leader, Diogenes, puts forth the first argument against conventional life. The Cynics believe that people should live naturally and strive for self-sufficiency.

343 BCE: **Greece** - The greatest dramatist of [HELLENISTIC GREECE](#), Menander, follows the comedic genre put forth by [ARISTOPHANES](#) (the subject of which is romantic love).

338 BCE: **Greece** - Philip of Macedon, Alexander the Great's father, conquers Greece and is succeeded by his son two years later. At age twenty-two, Alexander begins his campaign to acquire new territory in Asia. Within four years, Alexander conquers the entire Persian Empire (including Asia Minor, Egypt, Persia, Syria and Mesopotamia). Alexander continues his campaign farther east and eventually returns to Persia in [323 BCE](#), where he dies of fever in Babylon. Before his death, Alexander was the ruler of the largest empire the world had seen. [HELLENISTIC GREECE](#), a combination of Greek and western Asian cultures, lasts from Alexander's time until the beginning of the Christian era.

323 BCE: **Greece** - Alexander leaves no successors, and the highest generals engage in many wars which result in the decisive battle of Ipsus in [301 BCE](#). The empire is divided into four major states under

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the separate rules of Seleucus, Lysimachus, Cassander and Ptolemy. Greek cities revolt against Macedonian rule but to no avail. The next four hundred years witness the growth of large cities and Hellenistic international trade.

300 BCE: Greece - Epicureanism and Stoicism both originate in [ATHENS](#). Both [Epicurus \(342-270 BCE\)](#) and Zeno, the Stoic (not to be confused with Zeno of Elea), believe in an individualistic and materialistic philosophy. Neither believe in spiritual substances. The soul is thought to be material. The Epicureans believe that pleasure is the highest good, and only by abandoning the fear of the supernatural can one achieve tranquillity of mind. The Stoics believe that tranquillity of mind is only achieved by surrendering the self to the order of the cosmos.

310 BCE: Greece - Hellenistic astronomy is founded by Aristarchus of Samos. His major contribution to Hellenistic thought is his theory that the earth and all other planets revolve around the sun, contrary to [ARISTOTLE](#).

200 BCE: Greece - Under the influence of [Carneades](#), [Skepticism](#) arises with doctrines closely tied to Sophism. They teach that because all knowledge is achieved through sense perception, nothing can be known for sure.

146-30 BCE: Greece - Between these years, nearly all Hellenistic territory becomes subject to Roman rule.

336 BC: Alexander becomes king of Macedonia

334 BC: Alexander defeats the Persian army at the Dardanelles

333 BC: Alexander invades the Persian empire from Syria to Palestine

332 BC: Alexander the Great conquers Egypt

331 BC: Alexander the Great conquers Persia (battle of Gaugamela) and destroys Persepolis, ending the Achaemenid dynasty

329 BC: Artaxerxes V dies, last of the Achaemenians

324 BC: Alexander invades the Punjab in India

323 BC: Alexander the Great dies at Babylon and his empire is carved into three empires: Cassander rules over Greece and Macedonia, Lysimachus rules over Thracia and Asia Minor, Ptolemy rules over Egypt, Judea, Syria, Mesopotamia and India

312 BC: Ptolemy's general in Syria, Seleucus Nicator, declares himself

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satrap of Babylon

307 BC: Ptolemy founds the library of Alexandria

306 BC: Lysimachus general Antigonus Monophthalmos declares himself king of Phrygia

305 BC: Seleucus Nicator establishes a kingdom ranging from Syria in the west to India in the east and founds the Seleucid dynasty with capital in Seleucia (Iraq)

303 BC: Seleucus grants Punjab and Afghanistan to Chandragupta Maurya

302 BC: Mithridates I, a subject of Lysimachus, declares the kingdom of Pontus

301 BC: Antigonus is defeated by Lysimachus

283 BC: Philataerus, a subject of Lysimachus, seizes the fortress of Pergamum (Pergamon)

282 BC: Seleucus defeats and kills Lysimachus and thereby conquers Asia Minor

281 BC: Seleucus is murdered by the king of Thracia and is succeeded by his son Antiochus who transfers the capital to Antiochia

265 BC: Antiochus I founds Antiochia in old Margiana (Mary, Merv) to guard from invasions of the Parni

263 BC: Eumenes, son of Philataerus, proclaims the kingdom of Pergamum and begins the Attalid dynasty

261 BC: Antiochus II (Seleucid) fights the Egyptians

250 BC: Diodotos, a Macedonian ruler of the satrapy of Bactria (Afghanistan), declares its independence from the Seleucids

250 BC: the Parni invade the satrapy of Parthia (northern Iran) and found the Parthian empire with capital in Ctesiphon (near Seleucia) and Arsaces as ruler (founder of the Arsacid dynasty)

248 BC: Tiridates leads the Parthians to independence from the Seleucids

246 BC: defeated by Ptolemy III Euergetes, the Seleucid empire loses eastern lands to the Parthians and to Pergamum

241 BC: Attalus, son of Emenes, defeats the Galatians

239 BC: Bactria declares independence from the Seleucids

225 BC: the Celts in the west and the Sarmatians in the east destroy the Scythian kingdom

211 BC: Tiridates dies and Artabanus I becomes ruler of the Parthians

204 BC: Ptolomy IV of Egypt dies

198 BC: the Seleucids under Antiochus III conquer Palestine and Phoenicia from the Ptolemaics

192 BC: the Seleucids under Antiochus III are defeated by the Romans in Thracia

190 BC: Bactrian king Euthydemus defeats Seleucid king Antiochus III at Magnesia

188 BC: Pergamum conquers the Seleucid lands of Lydia, Phrygia,

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Lycaonia, Pisidia

185 BC: Parthians under Priapatius expand into Seleucid eastern Iran

175 BC: Mithraism (an offshoot of Zoroastrianism that worships Ahura Mazda as the sole and creator god) is born in Bactria

170 BC: Batrian king Demetrios I expands Bactria to northwestern India

165 BC: the Maccabees revolt in Palestine and gain independence from the Seleucids

159 BC: the new king Eumenes II of Pergamum inaugurates a library that would compete with Alexandria's

155 BC: Bactrian king Menander invades northwestern India

145 BC: the Kushan (Yuezhi), nomadic tribes expelled from China by the Hsiungnu (Huns), overthrow the kingdom of Bactria (last Greek kingdom in Central Asia) and push the Scythians south to Iran and India

141 BC: the Parthians of Mithradates I conquer Media and Elam from the Seleucids, while Edessa becomes de-facto independent

135 BC: the Kushan establish their capital in Kabul

133 BC: Attalus III of Pergamum wills his kingdom to Rome

127 BC: the Parthians under Phraates II are defeated by the Scythians

126 BC: the Parthians under Artabanus II conquer Babylonia from the Seleucids, who now control only Syria

124 BC: the Parthians under Artabanus II are defeated again by the Scythians and Mithridates II succeeds Artabanus II as king of Parthia

106 BC: Mithridates II signs a treaty with Chinese emperor Wu-Ti to open the "silk road"

96 BC: Tigranes becomes king of Armenia

92 BC: Mithridates II signs a peace treaty with Rome

6

Greek Olympics

The Greeks invented athletic contests and held them in honour of their gods. The Isthmos game were staged every two years at the Isthmos of Corinth. The Pythian games took place every four years near Delphi. The most famous games held at Olympia, South- West of Greece, which took place every four years. The ancient Olympics seem to have begun in the early 700 BC, in honour of Zeus. No women were allowed to watch the games and only Greek nationals could participate. One of the ancient wonders was a statue of Zeus at Olympia, made of gold and ivory by a Greek sculptor Pheidias. This was placed inside a Temple, although it was a towering 42 feet high.

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The games at Olympia were greatly expanded from a one-day festival of athletics and wrestling to, in 472 BC, five days with many events. The order of the events is not precisely known, but the first day of the festival was devoted to sacrifices. On the Middle Day of the festival 100 oxen were sacrificed in honor of a God. Athletes also often prayed and made small sacrifices themselves..

On the second day, the foot-race, the main event of the games, took place in the stadium, an oblong area enclosed by sloping banks of earth.

At Olympia there were 4 different types of races; The first was stadion, the oldest event of the Games, where runners sprinted for 1 stade, the length of the stadium(192m). The other races were a 2-stade race (384 m.), and a long-distance run which ranged from 7 to 24 stades (1,344 m. to 4,608 m.).The fourth type of race involved runners wearing full armor, which was 2-4 stade race (384 m. to 768 m.), used to build up speed and stamina for military purposes.

On other days, wrestling, boxing, and the pancratium, a combination of the two, were held. In wrestling, the aim was to throw the opponent to the ground three times, on either his hip, back or shoulder. In ancient Greek wrestling biting and genital holds were illegal.

Boxing became more and more brutal; at first the pugilists wound straps of soft leather over their fingers as a means of deadening the blows, but in later times hard leather, sometimes weighted with metal, was used. In the pancratium, the most rigorous of the sports, the contest continued until one or the other of the participants acknowledged defeat.

Horse-racing, in which each entrant owned his horse, was confined to the wealthy but was nevertheless a popular attraction. The course was 6 laps of the track, with separate races for whereupon the rider would have no stirrups. It was only wealthy people that could pay for such training, equipment, and feed of both the rider and the horses. So whichever horse won it was not the rider who was awarded the Olive wreath but the owner. There were also Chariot races, that consisted of both 2-horse and 4-horse chariot races, with separate races for chariots drawn by foals. There was also a race was between carts drawn by a team of 2 mules, which was 12 laps of the stadium track.

After the horse-racing came the pentathlon, a series of five events: sprinting, long-jumping, javelin-hurling, discus-throwing, and wrestling.

The ancient Greeks considered the rhythm and precision of an athlete throwing the discus as important as his strength.

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The discus was a circle shaped stone, iron, bronze, or lead. There were different sizes according to age groups. The javelin was a long wooden stick shape with spear head, similar height to that of a person. In the middle was bound a thong for a hurler's fingers to grip and guide to the correct angle it was thrown.

To Jump long distances athletes used lead or stone weights to increase the length of the jump. These weights were known as 'halteres' were held in front of the athlete during his ascent, and then swung behind his back and dropped during his descent to help propel him.

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Study Questions Three
Chapter 3: Greek Empire

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Quiz Three
Chapter 3: Greek Empire

Ch. 4 - Roman Empire

New Testament Introduction is a

Now commenced a new and very important part of the story. The Herods were of Idumaeaen (Edom) descent. When Augustus Caesar, in 31 BC, overthrew Mark Antony at the battle of Actium, and He, Herod the Great, was in power when Jesus was born. Eleven members of the Herodian family are mentioned in the New Testament:

Herod the Great	Matthew 2:1-3,7,9,12,19,22 Luke 1:5
Herod Philip I	Matthew 14:3 Mark 6:17 Luke 3:19
Herod Antipas	Matthew 14:1,3,6,9 Mark 6:14,16-22,25,27
Herod Archelaus	Matthew 2:22
Herod Philip II	Luke 3:1
Salome	Matthew 14:6 Mark 6:22
Herod Agrippa I	Acts 12
Herodias	Matthew 14:3-6 Mark 6:17,19,22
Herod Agrippa II	Acts 25:13; 26:1
Bernice	Acts 25:13,23; 26:30
Drusilla	Acts 24:24

March 20, 44 bC mark antony gives “Friends, countrymen, lend me your ears” speech

V. THE ROMAN PERIOD

A. Founded approximately 753 BC

1. Named after Romulus the first king
2. Republican government formed

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- B. The Pax Romana
1. A period of peace in the Roman Empire
 2. Began 31 BC
 3. Ended with the Jewish uprising in AD 70
 4. Established a peaceful setting for the NT period
- C. Rome dominated Palestine during NT times
1. Allowed native vassal rulers in Palestine
 - a. Herod the Great
 - 1) Ruled Palestine from 37 to 4 BC
 - 2) An evil ruthless ruler
 - 3) Sought to destroy the new born King
 - b. The son's of Herod ruled separate part of Palestine

King

Gospel

 2. Roman roads would help to spread the Gospel
 3. Jesus was crucified upon a Roman cross

Political and religious background at the time of Jesus' Ministry

The political and religious background that surrounds the ministry of both John the Baptist and Jesus is as follows:

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It was the fifteenth year of the reign of **Tiberius Caesar**, the emperor of Rome. Tiberius had distinguished himself as a citizen for his oratory skills, as a soldier and a public official. As emperor of Rome he was slothful, self indulgent, licentious, vindictive and cruel. He was a master at lying and he was very cunning.

Pontius Pilate was the governor of Judea for 10 years. He had entered public life not for pure of lofty reasons but to advance his own career and serve his own selfish purposes. He was ruthless and murderous, with a reputation among the Jews he ruled as being tyrannical and tempestuous. He had a very low and corrupt character.

Herod (also called Antipas) was ruler of Galilee. Herod was first married to a daughter of King Aretas of Arabia; then he took Heroidas, his brothers' wife, as his own wife. This sinful act resulted in the death of John the Baptist and the overthrow and banishment of Herod and his unlawful wife.

Philip, the half brother of Herod (Antipas), was ruler of the region of Ituraea. He was the only decent ruler from the line of Herod. He was known for his moderation and his justice.

Trachonitis and **Lysanias** were the rulers of Abilene, a region 18 miles from Damascus. History gives us no account of these men.

The High Priesthood of **Annas** and **Caiaphas**. Annas was the father in law of Caiaphas, and although Caiaphas was the official high priest of Israel, Annas who had been the former high priest still held power and authority. Caiaphas is the high priest that tore his clothes and declared Jesus worthy of death.

These are the prominent political and religious figures that were on the historical landscape at the time that John the Baptist and then Jesus began their public ministries.

Scribes

The word “scribe” is the English translation of the Greek word “Grammateis”, which means “student of the scriptures.” Scribes were men whose primary occupation was writing out copies of the Jewish Scriptures and teaching the people what the law said.

Because they copied the Old Testament books, they were familiar with the Hebrew Scriptures and were respected in society for their literacy and knowledge. The scribes provided teaching that was the religious

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and moral backbone for the Jewish people during the time of Jesus. Because of their role, there were often addressed as, "Teacher."

They were trusted as professional interpreters and as ones who could judge individual cases as they related to Jewish law. Scribes were, therefore, also trusted as lawyers within Jewish society. As the scribes were the most learned individuals on the fine details of following Jewish law, their duties also consisted of deciding on specific questions of the law in individual cases.

Scribes had no authority in themselves, but rather they continually deferred to the authority of other scribes and traditions to support their positions. The scribes were some of Jesus' most adamant opponents. In their minds, the Messiah who the Old Testament Scriptures spoke about did not seem to match up with who Jesus was.

Pharisees

The Pharisees were religious leaders in the Jewish society at the time of Jesus. They were religious fundamentalists who focused on strict observance of the Jewish laws, ceremonies and traditions. There were around 6,000 Pharisees during Jesus' time on earth. Pharisees were leaders in the local synagogue. Most every Jewish community had their own synagogue, while there was only one temple and it was in Jerusalem.

Pharisees strongly encouraged the Jewish people to pursue righteousness by closely following the Jewish laws and not compromising with the beliefs and ways of the Romans. The Pharisees openly opposed Jesus for many reasons. They were particularly appalled at his acts of healing people on the Sabbath and his blatant claims to divinity.

Jesus denounced them as being hypocrites. They often lived moral lives, full of good deeds, but it was all outward actions with no thought given to the heart or motives of the actions.

Sadducees

The Sadducees were Jewish religious leaders who were primarily from the upper-class, were much more sympathetic to the Romans and sought to maintain their aristocratic positions in society. They often disagreed with the Pharisees because the Sadducees rejected the oral traditions and much of the doctrine of the Pharisees.

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The Sadducees were opposed to Jesus because there was the supposed threat that Jesus could potentially overthrow the Roman government, thus jeopardizing their positions of prestige. Sadducees lived primarily in Jerusalem and their lives were often focused around the happenings of the Jewish temple in Jerusalem.

The Sanhedrin (the judicial council of the Jewish people) was comprised primarily of Sadducees.

Lawyers

The lawyers in Jesus time were the scribes. Jewish scribes functioned not only to preserve the Scriptures by copying them and teaching them, but also by settling disputes and questions regarding the laws of Moses. See the definition of “scribe” for more information.

Teachers

The word “teacher” usually comes from the Hebrew word, “Rabbi”. Teacher is the term that Jews used to address their religious leaders. Because scribes were the most educated in the scriptures and fulfilled the role of instructing others, they were often addressed as “teacher.”

Jesus was recognized as a Teacher who stood apart from other teachers. Most teachers would appeal to other teachers or famous scribes to support their statements, while Jesus spoke as one who had authority in himself.

Crucifixion

General Information

Crucifixion was a method of execution used by the Romans to punish slaves and foreigners. Hung from a crossbar astride an upright peg, the naked victim was allowed to hang as a public spectacle until dead. No vital organs were damaged, and death was slow agony. Prior to crucifixion, the victim was scourged and made to carry the crossbar to the execution site. The crucifixion of Jesus Christ followed this order of events (Mark 15:15; John 19:17).

Though closely associated with Rome, crucifixion originated with the Phoenicians and Persians. It was practiced from the 6th century BC until the 4th century AD. The Roman emperor Constantine I banned crucifixion in 337.

Because Jesus was crucified, the Cross has assumed theological significance for Christians. It symbolizes reconciliation with God through

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faith in Christ (1 Cor. 1:18 - 25), whose life, death, and Resurrection are proof of God's forgiveness of human sin.

Douglas Ezell

Crucifixion (Editor's Comments)

There appear to be a number of misconceptions regarding the Crucifixion of Jesus. Jesus was NOT the first nor the only person to be crucified. The Romans had used that method of execution for at least 70 years before Jesus was Crucified. In around 40 BC, in Rome, a historian recorded that 2,000 people were crucified in a single day, for the entertainment of Quintilius Varus! About 40 years after Jesus' Crucifixion, the Romans crucified around 500 per day in 70 AD.

Even by Jesus' time, it is clear that they had developed "efficient" methods. For example, on that day of the 2,000 crucifixions, it seems unlikely that the workers would have had the time to dig 2,000 holes and built 2,000 crosses, just for practical reasons. The following articles indicate that it was extremely common for the upright pole to be left in place, at the standard location for the crucifixions, and that Jesus (and the others) almost certainly carried just the horizontal cross-bar, still a heavy burden. Once there, the execution crew would have lifted Jesus and the cross-bar up onto the already vertical pole.

Most modern depictions of the Crucifixion show Jesus being quite high up, but that almost certainly was not the case. Victims of crucifixion generally had their feet just a foot or two above the ground. Also, part of the "punishment" of crucifixion (and a visible example of that punishment for the community as a whole) was that it was generally an extended process. One of the articles below even mention that some crosses had a small "seat" area to partially support the weight of the body, with the intent of extending the suffering further.

These matters are confirmed by a variety of Jewish laws of the time. Several dealt with the "official" ways of determining the moment of death such that the body could be taken down. Yev. 120b mentions that one of those methods of confirmation was when stray animals began to feed on the flesh of the feet and legs, which could be reached because of the legs being close to the ground. Oho. 3:5 mentions ways of determining when the blood had become impure. Many other laws associated with crucifixion existed in Jewish law of the time. Tosef, Git 7:1, Git 70b, describe how a person could get a divorce from a person being crucified. Interestingly, Yev. 16:3, 15c, apparently allowed the possibility that a rich matron could "redeem" a person being crucified to become her husband!

Also, a modern misconception is that the spikes were driven through the hands. The Romans had discovered much earlier that the skin would just tear away and the person would fall from the cross. The spikes were certainly driven through the wrist area, between some bones there.

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Finally, as a confirmation of the reality of the Crucifixion of Jesus, Jewish records record the event. In the Talmud, Sanh. 7:4 refers to Him being subjected to *halakhah*, being "hanged alive". This, along with stoning, was the legal punishment for "leading others astray or practicing sorcery". Sanh. 6:4 also refers to the event.

Crucifixion Advanced Information

Crucifixion was a common mode of punishment among heathen nations in early times. It is not certain whether it was known among the ancient Jews; probably it was not. The modes of capital punishment according to the Mosaic law were, by the sword (Ex. 21), strangling, fire (Lev. 20), and stoning (Deut. 21). This was regarded as the most horrible form of death, and to a Jew it would acquire greater horror from the curse in Deut.

21:23. This punishment began by subjecting the sufferer to scourging. In the case of our Lord, however, his scourging was rather before the sentence was passed upon him, and was inflicted by Pilate for the purpose, probably, of exciting pity and procuring his escape from further punishment (Luke 23:22; John 19:1).

The condemned one carried his own cross to the place of execution, which was outside the city, in some conspicuous place set apart for the purpose. Before the nailing to the cross took place, a medicated cup of vinegar mixed with gall and myrrh (the sopor) was given, for the purpose of deadening the pangs of the sufferer. Our Lord refused this cup, that his senses might be clear (Matt. 27:34). The sanguineous vinegar, sour wine, posca, the common drink of the Roman soldiers, which was put on a hyssop stalk and offered to our Lord in contemptuous pity (Matt. 27:48; Luke 23:36), he tasted to allay the agonies of his thirst (John 19:29). The accounts given of the crucifixion of our Lord are in entire agreement with the customs and practices of the Romans in such cases. He was crucified between two "malefactors" (Isa. 53:12; Luke 23:32), and was watched by a party of four soldiers (John 19:23; Matt. 27:36, 54), with their centurion.

The "breaking of the legs" of the malefactors was intended to hasten death, and put them out of misery (John 19:31); but the unusual rapidity of our Lord's death (19:33) was due to his previous sufferings and his great mental anguish. The omission of the breaking of his legs was the fulfilment of a type (Ex. 12:46). He literally died of a broken heart, a ruptured heart, and hence the flowing of blood and water from the wound made by the soldier's spear (John 19:34). Our Lord uttered seven memorable words from the cross, namely, (1) Luke 23:34; (2) 23:43; (3) John 19:26; (4) Matt. 27:46, Mark 15:34; (5) John 19:28; (6) 19:30; (7) Luke 23:46.

(Easton Illustrated Dictionary)

Cross, Crucifixion

Advanced Information

The Greek word for "cross," stauros, literally refers to an upright, pointed stake or pale. The word xylon is usually "wood" or "tree." In the NT and in some other literature of the time both frequently refer to a particularly cruel and degrading form of capital punishment known as crucifixion. In both canonical and later Christian literature "cross" and "crucifixion" take on a particularly important significance because of their connection with the death of Jesus and his expectations of his disciples. Any understanding of crucifixion in the ancient world must include the facts related to the act itself, its effect upon the victim, and the sociocultural implications attached to it.

Method of Crucifixion

Crucifixion involved elevating the condemned upon a pole, some form of frame or scaffolding, or a natural tree, thus exposing him to public view and derision. In many cases the individual was put to death through some other means and all or a part of the body (usually the head) then elevated. In other circumstances it became the actual means of execution. Because of both the effect of crucifixion upon the body and the lengthy period which usually elapsed before death, it represented the most painful, cruel, and barbaric form of execution. Its roots are lost in history. In one form or another it is known to have been practiced by many groups (such as the Indians, Scythians, Celts, Germani, Britanni, and Taurians) but is most closely associated with the Persians, Carthaginians, Phoenicians, Greeks, and especially the Romans. Some evidence suggests that it may have been associated with religious human sacrifice as well as a means of punishment.

Earlier forms probably involved impaling the condemned on a single pole or suspending him by wedging the head between a "Y" at one end of the implement. By NT times there seem to have been several different forms of "crosses" commonly used by the Romans. In addition to the single pole (crux simplex), most involved the use of at least two separate pieces of wood to construct a frame. However, crucifixion gave executioners opportunity to use their most cruel and sadistic creativity; victims were occasionally hung in grotesque positions by a variety of means. The two cross forms most likely used for the execution of Jesus are the St. Anthony's cross (crux commissa), shaped like a "T," or the Latin cross (crux immissa), on which the vertical piece rises above both the horizontal cross-bar (patibulum) and the head of the victim; the statement in Matt. 27:37 (cf. Luke 23:38) that the inscription was placed "over his head" and most ancient tradition favor the latter.

Detailed descriptions of crucifixion are few; writers seem to have avoided the subject. Recent archaeological discoveries, including skeletal remains of a crucifixion in first century Palestine (at Giv'at ha-Mivtar in Jerusalem), have added considerably to knowledge of the act. It seems that the Gospel accounts of the death of Jesus describe a standard Roman procedure for crucifixion. After the pronouncement of sentence, the condemned was required to carry the horizontal piece to the place of

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execution, always outside the city. The leader of the four-man execution squad led the procession bearing a sign detailing the reason for the execution. There the victim was flogged (this seems to have preceded condemnation in the case of Jesus, possibly to elicit sympathy). The victim's outstretched arms were affixed to the cross-bar by either nails or ropes. This was then raised and secured to the perpendicular pole (which in some areas may have been left in place permanently, both for convenience and as a warning). A small board or peg may have been provided as sort of a seat to bear some of the weight of the condemned (this actually may have prolonged suffering by prohibiting suffocation). The feet were then secured in a manner forcing the knees into a bent position. Contrary to popular contemporary opinion, crosses were not high; the feet were probably only a few inches above the ground. The sign describing the accusation was secured to the cross.

Death usually came slowly; it was not unusual for persons to survive for days on the cross. Exposure, disease, hunger, shock, and exhaustion were the usual immediate causes of death. Occasionally death was "mercifully" hastened by breaking the legs of the condemned. In Jesus' case death came much more swiftly than usual. A spear was thrust into his side to assure he was really dead before the body was removed (John 19:31-37). Bodies of the crucified were often left unburied and eaten by carnivorous birds and beasts, thus adding to the disgrace.

The social stigma and disgrace associated with crucifixion in the ancient world can hardly be overstated. It was usually reserved for slaves, criminals of the worst sort from the lowest levels of society, military deserters, and especially traitors. In only rare cases were Roman citizens, no matter what their crime, crucified. Among the Jews it carried an additional stigma. Deut. 21:23, "A hanged man is accursed by God," was understood to mean that the very method of death brought a divine curse upon the crucified. Thus, the idea of a crucified Messiah posed a special problem for such Jews as Paul (cf. Gal. 3:13; 1 Cor. 1:27-29).

Significance of the Cross

NT writers assume the historicity of the crucifixion of Jesus and focus their attention upon its significance. In it they understand that he, "who was in the form of God, did not consider equality with God a thing to be grasped at," was willing to "humble himself," take "on the form of a servant," and endure "even the death on the cross" (Phil. 2:6-8). This demonstrates the ultimate of humiliation and degradation. Yet, they affirm, the crucifixion of Jesus, the Messiah (Christ), was the will and act of God with eternal and cosmic significance. At the simplest level, the crucifixion of Jesus was the means by which God provided salvation, the forgiveness of sins (cf. 1 Cor. 15:3). Christ crucified becomes the summary of the Christian message (1 Cor. 2:2). The cross of Jesus, the beloved Son of God, is the supreme demonstration of the love God has for sinful man (cf. John 3:16; 15:16). In Jesus' death God deals concretely with the sin and guilt which offends his holiness and separates man from his Creator. Because of the cross God becomes both the righteous and

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just Judge and, at the same time, the one who makes forgiveness available and justifies believers (cf. Rom. 3:26). The condemning legal demands set against man have been "canceled," nailed to the cross (Col. 2:14). The word of the cross is God's word of reconciliation (II Cor. 5:19). The cross is also the symbol of discipleship. To first century Palestinians, who often witnessed the condemned carrying the crossbar to the site of their final torture, Jesus' word, "If any man will come after me, let him take up his cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34; cf. Matt. 10:38; Luke 14:27), must have come with a jolting, graphic impact. Jesus insists that the humiliation and suffering that culminated in his crucifixion were to characterize the experience of his followers. "It is," he says, "for the disciple to be like his teacher" (Matt. 10:24). Crucifixion becomes a part of the identification between Christ and the believer who is "crucified with Christ" (Gal. 2:20). The negative side of the characteristics of the new life of the Christian consists in having "crucified" sinful natures and desires (Gal. 5:24).

When understood in its historical, social context, Paul's statement that the proclamation of Christ crucified is a "stumbling block" or "scandal" (skandalon) to the Jews and "foolishness" (moria) to the Gentiles is both logical and clear. Yet for Christians it remains an act and demonstration "of the power and wisdom of God" (1 Cor. 1:23-24).

J J Scott, Jr.

(Elwell Evangelical Dictionary)

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Crucify (verb)

Advanced Information

Crucify signifies (a) "the act of crucifixion," e.g., Matt. 20:19; (b) metaphorically, "the putting off of the flesh with its passions and lusts," a condition fulfilled in the case of those who are "of Christ Jesus," Gal. 5:24, RV; so of the relationship between the believer and the world, 6:14.

Crucify (verb)

Advanced Information

"to crucify with" (su, "for," sun, "with"), is used (a) of actual "crucifixion" in company with another, Matt. 27:44; Mark 15:32; John 19:32 (b) metaphorically, of spiritual identification with Christ in His death, Rom. 6:6, and Gal. 2:20.

Crucify (verb)

Advanced Information

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(ana, again) is used in Heb. 6:6 of Hebrew apostates, who as merely nominal Christians, in turning back to Judaism, were thereby virtually guilty of "crucifying" Christ again.

Crucifixion

Jewish Viewpoint Information

Crucifixion was the act of putting to death by nailing or binding to a cross. Among the modes of Capital Punishment known to the Jewish penal law, crucifixion is not found; the "hanging" of criminals "on a tree," mentioned in Deut. xxi. 22, was resorted to in New Testament times only after lapidation (Sanh. vi. 4; Sifre, ii. 221, ed. Friedmann, Vienna, 1864). A Jewish court could not have passed a sentence of death by crucifixion without violating the Jewish law. The Roman penal code recognized this cruel penalty from remote times (Aurelius Victor Cæsar, 41). It may have developed out of the primitive custom of "hanging" ("arbori suspendere") on the "arbor infelix," which was dedicated to the gods of the nether world. Seneca ("Epistola," 101) still calls the cross "infelix lignum." Trees were often used for crucifying convicts (Tertullian, "Apologia," viii. 16). Originally only slaves were crucified; hence "death on the cross" and "supplicium servile" were used indiscriminately (Tacitus, "Historia," iv. 3, 11). Later, provincial freedmen of obscure station ("humiles") were added to the class liable to this sentence. Roman citizens were exempt under all circumstances (Cicero, "Verr." i. 7; iii. 2, 24, 26; iv. 10 et seq.). The following crimes entailed this penalty: piracy, highway robbery, assassination, forgery, false testimony, mutiny, high treason, rebellion (see Pauly-Wissowa, "Real-Encyc." s.v. "Crux"; Josephus, "B. J." v. 11, § 1). Soldiers that deserted to the enemy and slaves who denounced their masters ("delatio domini") were also punished by death on the cross.

Mode of Execution.

The crosses used were of different shapes. Some were in the form of a , others in that of a St. Andrew's cross, , while others again were in four parts, . The more common kind consisted of a stake ("palus") firmly embedded in the ground ("crucem figere") before the condemned arrived at the place of execution (Cicero, "Verr." v. 12; Josephus, "B. J." vii. 6, § 4) and a cross-beam ("patibulum"), bearing the "titulus"-the inscription naming the crime (Matt. xxvii. 37; Luke xxiii. 38; Suetonius, "Cal." 38). It was this cross-beam, not the heavy stake, which the condemned was compelled to carry to the scene of execution (Plutarch, "De Sera Num. Vind." 9; Matt. ib.; John xix. 17; See Cross). The cross was not very high, and the sentenced man could without difficulty be drawn up with ropes ("in crucem tollere, agere, dare, ferre"). His hands and feet were fastened with nails to the cross-beam and stake (Tertullian, "Adv. Judæos," 10; Seneca, "Vita Beata," 19); though it has been held that, as in Egypt, the hands and feet were merely bound with ropes (see Winer, "B. R." i. 678). The execution was always preceded by flagellation (Livy, xxxiv. 26; Josephus, "B. J." ii. 14, § 9; v. 11, § 1); and on his way to his doom, led through the most populous streets, the delinquent was

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exposed to insult and injury. Upon arrival at the stake, his clothes were removed, and the execution took place. Death was probably caused by starvation or exhaustion, the cramped position of the body causing fearful tortures, and ultimately gradual paralysis. Whether a foot-rest was provided is open to doubt; but usually the body was placed astride a board ("sedile"). The agony lasted at least twelve hours, in some cases as long as three days. To hasten death the legs were broken, and this was considered an act of clemency (Cicero, "Phil." xiii. 27). The body remained on the cross, food for birds of prey until it rotted, or was cast before wild beasts. Special permission to remove the body was occasionally granted. Officers (carnifex and triumviri) and soldiers were in charge.

This cruel way of carrying into effect the sentence of death was introduced into Palestine by the Romans. Josephus brands the first crucifixion as an act of unusual cruelty ("Ant." xiii. 14, § 2), and as illegal. But many Jews underwent this extreme penalty (ib. xx. 6, § 2; "Vita," § 75; "B. J." ii. 12, § 6; 14, § 9; v. 11, § 1; Philo, ii. 529).

During the times of unrest which preceded the rise in open rebellion against Rome (about 30-66 B.C.), "rebels" met with short shrift at the hands of the oppressor. They were crucified as traitors. The sons of Judas the Galilean were among those who suffered this fate. The details given in the New Testament accounts (Matt. xxvii. and parallels) of the crucifixion of Jesus agree on the whole with the procedure in vogue under Roman law. Two modifications are worthy of note: (1) In order to make him insensible to pain, a drink ($\delta\kappa\omega\zeta$, Matt. xxvii. 34, 48; John xix. 29) was given him. This was in accordance with the humane Jewish provision (see Maimonides, "Yad," Sanh. xiii. 2; Sanh. 43a). The beverage was a mixture of myrrh () and wine, given "so that the delinquent might lose clear consciousness through the ensuing intoxication." (2) Contrary to the Roman practise of leaving the body on the cross, that of Jesus was removed and buried, the latter act in keeping with Jewish law and custom. These exceptions, however, exhaust the incidents in the crucifixion of Jesus that might point to a participation therein, and a regulation thereof, by Jews or Jewish law. The mode and manner of Jesus' death undoubtedly point to Roman customs and laws as the directive power.

From the Jewish point of view, the crime of which Jesus was convicted by the Jewish priests is greatly in doubt (see Jesus). If it was blasphemy, lapidation should, according to Jewish law, have been the penalty, with suspension from the gallows after death (Mishnah Sanh. iii. 4; Sifre, iii. 221). Nor were any of the well-known measures taken (Sanh. vi.) which provide before execution for the contingency of a reversal of the sentence. Neither was the "cross"-i.e., the gallows for hanging-constructed as usual after lapidation, and as ordained in Sanhedrin vi. 4. His hands were not bound as prescribed; the "cross" was not buried with his body (Maimonides, "Yad," Sanh. xv. 9). Whether the Jewish law would have tolerated a threefold execution at one and the same time is more than uncertain (Sanh. vi. 4; Sifre, ii. 221).

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Date of Jesus' Crucifixion.

The greatest difficulty from the point of view of the Jewish penal procedure is presented by the day and time of the execution. According to the Gospels, Jesus died on Friday, the eve of Sabbath. Yet on that day, in view of the approach of the Sabbath (or holiday), executions lasting until late in the afternoon were almost impossible (*Sifre*, ii. 221; *Sanh.* 35b; *Mekilta* to *Wayakhel*). The Synoptics do not agree with John on the date of the month. According to the latter he died on the 14th of Nisan, as though he were the paschal lamb; but executions were certainly not regular on the eve of a Jewish holiday. According to the Synoptics, the date of his death was the 15th of Nisan (first day of Passover), when again no execution could be held (*Mishnah Sanh.* iv. 1; and the commentaries: *Yer. Sanh.* ii. 3; *Yer. Bez.* v. 2; *Ket.* i. 1). This discrepancy has given rise to various attempts at rectification. That by Chwolson is the most ingenious, assuming that Jesus died on the 14th, and accounting for the error in Matthew by a mistranslation from the original Hebrew in Matt. xxvi. 17 (, due to the omission of the first ; see his "Das Letzte Passamahl Christi," p. 13). But even so, the whole artificial construction of the law regarding Passover when the 15th of Nisan was on Saturday, attempted by Chwolson, would not remove the difficulty of an execution occurring on Friday = eve of Sabbath and eve of holiday; and the body could not have been removed as late as the ninth hour (3 P. M.). Bodies of delinquents were not buried in private graves (*Sanh.* vi. 5), while that of Jesus was buried in a sepulcher belonging to Joseph of Arimathea. Besides this, penal jurisdiction had been taken from the Sanhedrin in capital cases "forty years before the fall of the Temple." These facts show that the crucifixion of Jesus was an act of the Roman government. That it was customary to liberate one sentenced to death on account of the holiday season is not corroborated by Jewish sources. But many of the Jews suspected of Messianic ambitions had been nailed to the cross by Rome. The Messiah, "king of the Jews," was a rebel in the estimation of Rome, and rebels were crucified (*Suetonius*, "Vespas." 4; "Claudius," xxv.; *Josephus*, "Ant." xx. 5, § 1; 8, § 6; *Acts* v. 36, 37). The inscription on the cross of Jesus reveals the crime for which, according to Roman law, Jesus expired. He was a rebel. Tacitus ("Annales," 54, 59) reports therefore without comment the fact that Jesus was crucified. For Romans no amplification was necessary. Pontius Pilate's part in the tragedy as told in the Gospels is that of a wretched coward; but this does not agree with his character, as recorded elsewhere (see Süchrer, "Gesch." Index, s.v.). The other incidents in the New Testament report—the rending of the curtain, darkness (eclipse of the sun), the rising of the dead from their graves—are apocalyptic embellishments derived from Jewish Messianic eschatology. The so-called writs for the execution (see Mayer, "Die Rechte der Israeliten, Athener, und Römer," iii. 428, note 27) are spurious.

Kaufmann Kohler, Emil G. Hirsch
Jewish Encyclopedia, published between 1901-1906.

Roman Timeline

6 Critical Moments in Roman History

- 1) Julius Ceasar's Rise to Power
- 2) Nero
 - a. AD 64 Fire of Rome, Nero was at his home in Antium
 - b. The Fire burned for 6 days
 - c. Evidence that Nero helped try control the fire.
 - d. 10 of 14 districts burned, $\frac{1}{2}$ million without homes, thousands dead
 - e. Nero set on the largest building project rebuilding Rome
 - f. FALL 64 AD, assaulted the temple treasures to fund his building project
 - g.
- 3) Jewish Rebellion
 - a. AD 66 Judean revolt
 - b. Vespasian and son titus roman generals
 - c. Built the coliseum paid for from pillaged temple at Jerusalem
- 4) Revolution
 - a. 146 BC Carthage, North Africa is destroyed by Rome
 - b. Tiberius Gracchus son of [Tiberius Gracchus the Elder](#).
 - i. Politician whose legislation reformed stirred up enemies among rich landowners and the senate which eventually led to his assassination.
 - ii. **Gaius Hostilius Mancinus** was a Roman [consul](#) in 137 BC. Due to his campaign against Numantia in northern Spain, [Plutarch](#) called him "not bad as a man, but most unfortunate of the Romans as a general."^[1] During this campaign in the [Numantine War](#), Mancinus was defeated, showing some cowardice, allegedly putting out his fires and trying to flee by night before being surrounded and forced to make peace. According to Plutarch, [Tiberius Gracchus](#) was instrumental in bringing about the peace and saving 20,000 Roman soldiers.^[2] He returned home something of a hero, but Mancius

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was put on trial by the Senate, which refused to accept the treaty. While Gracchus and other lieutnants were saved by Scipio Africanus Minor, the Senate decreed that Mancinus be handed over to the Numantines, as some 20 Roman commanders were handed over to the Samnites after the defeat at [Caudine Forks](#) in 321 BC.^[3] Plutarch does not relate Mancinus' further fate, but Appian noted that he was taken to Spain and handed over naked to the Numantines, but that they refused to accept him.

- iii. **Agrarianism** and **agrarian** have two meanings. One refers to a [social philosophy](#) or [political philosophy](#) which stresses the moral superiority of a rural life based on [farming](#), as opposed to the supposed corruption of city life, with its banks and factories. [Thomas Jefferson](#) was a famous representative agrarian^[1].
- iv. The term "agrarianism" also means radical proposals for land redistribution, specifically the distribution of land from the rich to the poor or landless. This terminology is common in many countries, and originated from the "Lex Sempronnia Agraria" or "agrarian laws" of Rome in 133 BC, imposed by [Tiberius Gracchus](#), that seized the lands of the rich and distributed them to the poor, in "Robin Hood" fashion.^[2]
- v. The growing gap between rich and poor increased tensions in Rome
- vi. Slave WarsThe **Servile Wars** were a series of three slave revolts ("servile" is derived from "servus", Latin for "slave") in the late [Roman Republic](#). See:
 - 1. [First Servile War](#): 135 BC - 132 BC in Sicily, led by Eunus, a former slave claiming to be a prophet, and Cleon (Cilician)
 - 2. [Second Servile War](#): 104 BC - 100 BC in Sicily, led by Athenion and Tryphon
 - 3. [Third Servile War](#): 73 BC - 71 BC in mainland Italy, led by Spartacus

5) Constantine's Rise to Power -

- a. battle at Milvian Bridge
- b. The bridge was built by consul Gaius Claudius Nero in 206 BC, after he had defeated the Carthaginian army in the Battle of the Metaurus. In 115 BC, consul Marcus Aemilius Scaurus built a new bridge made of stone in the same position, demolishing the old one. In AD 312, Constantine I defeated his stronger rival Maxentius between this

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bridge and Saxa Rubra, in the famous Battle of Milvian Bridge.

c.

6) The Fall of Rome

- a. To Alaric King of the Goths
- b. 408 AD era, "Barbarians" attacked constantly: Huns, Vandals, Goths, etc.
- c. Goths had been forced from their home around the Black Sea by Rome
- d. Looking for somewhere safe to live within Roman borders
- e. Flavius Stilicho was suppose to work on behalf of the Goths, he was murdered for his deal he stroked with them, land in exchange for them fighting for Rome, the order did not come from Rome to murder him but from RAVENNA northern Italy the emperors new headquarters. Emperor Anorius had ruled on the throne since a child.
- f. Emperor had many barbarian Goths slaughtered
- g. Alaric's goal was to hold Rome hostage to force Rome to honor its 'promise' to give them land
- h. August 24, 410 finally Alaric fell on Rome
- i. 40,000 at the
- j. Gates were supposedly opened by some of Rome's own citizens
- k. Alaric died just 4 months after the sack of Rome, the beginning of the end
- l. 418, Western France the Kingdom of the Visigoths
- m. 476 AD last emperor in the west was deposed
- n. In the east it continued in another form in Constantinople

Early Roman Timeline

Year

Event

1200 BC

Beginning of the first iron age. The Latini migrate to Italy from the Danube region.

1000 BC

Latins settle in the Latium region.

1000 BC

Etruscan tribes move into Italy.

1000 - 800 BC

First settlements on the Palatine Hill.

753 BC

Traditional Founding of Rome by Romulus and Remus.

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- 753 - 716 BC
 Rule of Romulus
- 750 BC
 Greek cities founded in Italy.
- 700 BC
 Etruscan civilization dominates the region.
- 715-674 BC
 Reign of Numa Pompilius
- 673-642 BC
 Reign of Tullius Hostilius
- 642-617 BC
 Reign of Ancus Marcius
- 616-579 BC
 Reign of L. Tarquinius Priscus
- 600 BC
 Etruscans build the tombs of Cerveteri.
- 600 BC
 The Forum in Rome is built. (Coincides with a more historical foundation of the city of Rome)
- 582 BC
 Birth of the Greek philosopher and mathematician Pythagoras, on the island of Samos.
- 578-535 BC
 Reign of Servius Tullius
- 578 BC
 Tarquinius Priscus builds the Cloaca Maxima, the first sewer.
- 550 BC
 Servius Tullius builds city walls.
- 535-510 BC
 Reign of L. Tarquinius Superbus
- 510 BC
 Rape of the Sabines
- 509 BC
 Overthrow of Etruscan kings and destruction of the monarchy by L. Junius Brutus.
- 509 BC
 Establishment of the Roman Republic
- 509 BC
 The temple of Jupiter Capitolinus is built on the Capitoline Hill
- 508 BC
 Creation of the position of Pontifex Maximus as an official, to oversee the Rex Sacrorum.
- 504 BC
 Migration of the Claudi to Rome.
- 501 BC
 Appointment of the first-ever dictator, T. Larcius

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Roman Timeline 5th Century BC

Roman Timeline 5th Century BC	
Year	Event
496 BC	Battle of Lake Regillus between Rome and the Latin League.
494 BC	First Secession of the Plebs in Rome. Creation of the tribunes of the plebs, two of whom are elected annually.
493 BC	Treaty known as the Foedus Cassianum between Latin League and Rome.
491 BC	Coriolanus, Roman commander of the Volscians is exiled.
491 BC	The temple of Fortuna Muliebris is built.
490 BC	The Greeks under Miltiades defeat the invading Persians under King Darius at the battle of Marathon.
486 - 436 BC	War with the Aequi and the Volsci , which continues on and off for another 50 years.
483 BC	The temple of Castor is completed and dedicated.
482 - 474 BC	Intermittent wars with Veii .
480 BC	The last stand of the 300 Spartans occurs under Leonidas at Thermopylae.
480 BC	The Greek forces under the general Themistocles defeat the invading Persian navy under King Xerxes at the battle of Salamis.
474 BC	The Greek city-states in Italy win a naval battle at Cumae and crush Etruscan power in Campania.
471 BC	Creation of the concilium Plebis. Office of the tribunes officially recognized.
457 BC	The Aequi win a battle at Mt. Algidus. L. Quintius Cincinnatus becomes dictator and rescues remaining Roman army

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456 BC	The plebeians of Rome are granted land in the Aventine.
451 BC	The decemvirate (council of ten) gains power and establishes <u>The Code of the Twelve Tables</u> .
449 BC	Fall of the decemvirate and the power of the tribunes further defined.
449 BC	Secession of the plebs. The lex Valeria Horatia grants the tribunician inviolability.
447 BC	Creation of position for two quaestors, elected by the tribal assembly.
445 BC	Law passed by a tribune named Canuleius, the lex Canuleia, replaces the consuls with military tribunes with consular powers.
445 BC	Passing of the lex Canuleia, a law allowing plebeians and patricians to marry.
443 BC	Introduction of the office of censor to the Cursus Honorum.
439 BC	Gn. Spurius Maelius attempts to make himself king of Rome, but is thwarted by dictator Quintius Cincinnatus. Maelius is killed by Quintus Servilius Ahala.
435 BC	Q. Servilius Fidenas excavates a tunnel under the walls of the city of Fidenae in order to capture it.
434 BC	The terms of office for censors are fixed at four years.
433 BC	The temple of Apollo at Rome is built.
431 BC	The Aquei are driven from Mt. Algidius by M. Furius Camillus.
428 BC	Rome conquers Fidenae.
427 BC	Comitia Centuriata given final voice in the matter of declaration of war.
421 BC	The number of positions of quaestors is increased to four, and it is opened to plebeians.
409 BC	Three of the elected quaestors are plebeians.

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406 BC	The city of Anxur is besieged and captured by the Romans.
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Roman Timeline 4th Century BC

Roman Timeline 4th Century BC

Year

Event

405 - 396 BC

Siege of Veii finally results in its capture by M. Furius Camillus.

396 BC

Pay is introduced for Roman soldiers for the first time.

394 BC

The Falerii surrender unconditionally to the Romans under M. Furius Camillus.

390 BC

Disaster of Allia. The Roman army under the command of the military tribunes Q. Servius Fidenas, Q. Sulpicius and P. Cornelius Maluginensis are defeated by the Brennus of the Gauls.

390 BC

Gauls sack city of Rome. Inner capitol is besieged for 7 months, before the invaders are bought off.

388 BC

The Aequi are defeated by the Romans at a battle near Bola.

386 BC

The combined Italian tribes, the Latins, Volscii, and Hernici are defeated by the Romans.

381 BC

The district of Tusculum is pacified after a revolt against Rome, and conquered.

378 BC

Construction of the permanent Servian Wall.

377 BC

The Latins are defeated after the capture of the city of Satricum.

375 BC

No curule magistrates are elected for this year.

367 BC

Lex Liciniae Sextiae is passed restoring the Consulship, plebeians admitted to the office of consul.

367 BC

The amount of public land any man might hold is limited to 500 iugera (300 acres) under a law passed by two tribunes of the plebs, G. Licinius Stolo and L. Sextius.

367 BC

The Temple of Concord is built in Rome.

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366 BC

The first plebeian, L. Sextius Sextinus Lateranus, is elected consul.

366 BC

Offices of Praetor and Aedile added to the Cursus Honorum.

366 BC

The introduction of the ludi Romani games.

361 BC

Rome captures the city of Ferentinum.

360 BC

War with cities of Tibur, Praeneste, and the tribe Hernici.

359 BC

The town of Tarquinii revolts against Roman rule.

357 BC

Falerii revolts. Gauls raid Latium.

356 BC

The first plebeian dictator is appointed.

354 BC

Samnites sign a treaty of alliance with Rome.

353 BC

Caere defeated.

352 BC

The tomb of King Mausolus of Caria, known as the Mausoleum, is built to house the remains of the dead King.

351 BC

The office of censor is opened to the plebeians.

348 BC

Treaty with Carthage.

346 BC

The Romans defeat the cities of Antium and Satricum.

343 - 341 BC

First Samnite War, Romans occupy northern Campania.

340 - 338 BC

Great Latin War: Rome conquers the seaport of Antium.

338 BC

Latin League dissolved and Latin rights partial citizenship established.

338 BC

The rostra, or speaking platform, is created by G. Maenius.

337 BC

Office of praetor opened to plebeians.

336 BC

The Romans capture the town of Teanum Sidicinum.

334 BC

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Alexander the Great of Macedonia begins his eastern campaigns.

332 BC

Creation of two new tribes at Rome, Maecia and Scaptia. Rome signs a treaty with the city of Tarentum.

330 BC

Ostia founded.

329 BC

The Circus Maximus is completed in Rome.

328 BC

Etruria and Campania annexed.

326 - 304 BC

Second Samnite War. Rome increases its influence in southern Italy.

321 BC

The Battle of the Caudine Forks. Rome defeated by the Samnites.

312 BC

Construction of the first aqueduct, the Aqua Appia, and the first major road, the Via Appia, which connected Rome with southern Italy.

312 BC

The number of rural tribes in Rome is raised to twenty-seven.

311 BC

Etruscans join the Samnites against Rome.

307 BC

The Italian tribe, the Hernici, revolt against Rome.

304 BC

Aequi defeated. Under the censor Fabius Maximus Rullianus landless new citizens are assigned to four tribes in the city.

304 BC

End of the Second Samnite War, Rome establishes many new colonies and gains control over much of central and southern Italy.

300 BC

Lex Ogulnia is passed, which states that half of the members of Rome's priestly colleges must be plebeian.

300 BC

Lex Valeria passed by a tribune of the plebs granted the legal right to appeal against any capital sentence passed on a Roman citizen.

Roman Timeline 3rd Century BC

Roman Timeline 3rd Century BC	
Year	Event
299 BC	The Romans capture the territory of

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	Narnia.
298 BC	An alliance is formed with the Picentes, and Gauls raid Roman territory.
298 - 290 BC	Third Samnite War . Rome secures Campania and much of Southern Italy.
298 BC	The Romans capture the Samnite cities of Taurasia, Bovianum Vetus and Aufidena.
295 BC	Roman victory over Samnites, Gauls and Umbirnas at Sentinum.
294 BC	Samnite victory at Luceria.
293 BC	The Romans achieve a victory over the Samnite forces at the battle of Aquilonia.
292 BC	The rebellious city of Falerii is reduced by the Romans.
291 BC	The Romans storm the Samnite city of Venusia.
290 BC	The Sabines are conquered by Man. Curius Dentatus. End of the Third Samnite War .
290 BC	Establishment of the triumviri capitales occurs in Rome.
290 BC	The construction on the Great Library of Alexandria is completed and the structure is dedicated in Egypt .
287 BC	Introduction of the triumviri monetales (official mint supervisors) to control the minting of coins .
287 BC	Plebian dictator Q. Hortensius is appointed, and passes the lex Hortensia, which gives plebiscites power at law.
284 BC	The Gallic Senones renew their incursions into Roman territory and lay siege to the city of Arretium, defeating the army of the consul L. Caecilius Metellus.
283 BC	Boii defeated at Lake Vadimo.
282 BC	Rome conquers territory still held by the Gauls along the Adriatic, Roman Fleet attacked by Tarentum.
282 - 275	War against King Phryrus of Epirus .

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BC	
282 BC	Approximated date of the completion of the wonder of the world, the Colossus of Rhodes.
280 BC	Battle of Heraclea, in which Pyrrhus defeats a Roman force under the command of P. Valerius Laevinus.
280 BC	The Great Lighthouse is built on the island of Pharos in the harbor of Alexandria by King Ptolemy II in Egypt.
279 BC	Battle of Asculum, in Apulia. Pyrrhus defeats another Roman army under the command of G. Fabricius Luscinus.
278 BC	Roman treaty with Carthage. Pyrrhus leaves Italy for Sicily.
275 BC	Pyrrhus returns to Italy but is defeated near Malventum and leaves Italy for good.
272 BC	A second aqueduct, the Anio Vetus, is built.
272 BC	Surrender of Tarentum.
270 BC	Capture of Rhegium.
269 BC	Begginning of official coinage of the Roman state.
268 BC	Picentes conquered and granted limited citizenship.
267 BC	The Romans capture the city of Brundisium.
266 BC	Apulia and Messapia reduced to alliance securing the Italian Peninsula for Rome.
264 BC	Introduction of gladiator shows in Rome. Capture of Volsinii. Roman alliance with Mamertines.
264 BC	An alliance between the Romans and a group of mercenaries called Mamertines is signed.
264 BC	Start of the First Punic War . The Mamertines called to Rome for help after being attacked by Carthage.
264 - 241	The First Punic War between Rome and

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BC	Carthage.
263 BC	Hiero of Syracuse becomes ally of Rome.
263 BC	The first sundial is brought to Rome from Sicily .
262 BC	Agrigentum captured by Rome.
260 BC	Rome builds its first major fleet and defeats Carthage at Mylae.
259 BC	Romans occupy Corsica .
258 BC	Minor naval victory of Sulci.
257 BC	Naval victory of Tyndaris.
256 BC	Major naval victory of Ecnomus.
256 - 255 BC	An expeditionary force sent to Africa under M. Regulus ends in disaster.
255 BC	Battle of Bagradas in Africa, in which the invading Roman army under M. Regulus was virtually destroyed by the Carthaginians under the mercenary leader Xanthippus, a Spartan.
255 BC	A part of the Roman fleet is wrecked off the coast near Pachynus.
254 BC	Capture of the city of Panormus.
254 BC	Birth of the Roman comedy playwright Plautus, in the town of Sarsina, Umbria, in Italy.
253 BC	First plebeian Pontifex Maximus .
253 BC	A small Roman fleet is wrecked off the coast of Sicily near the town of Palinurus.
249 BC	Carthaginian naval victory at Drepana.
247 BC	Birth of the Carthaginian general Hannibal Barca.
247 BC	Hamilcar Barca begins offensive in Sicily.
241 BC	Naval victory off Aegates Insulae. Peace with Carthage. Occupation of Sicily which is made a Roman province .
241 BC	Construction of the Via Aurelia from Rome to Pisa.

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240 BC	The Roman poet and writer Livius Andronicus produces the first <u>Latin literature</u> in Rome.
239 BC	Birth of the writer Quintus Ennius, born at the town of Rudiae in Calabria.
238 BC	Annexation of <u>Sardinia</u> and <u>Corsica</u> .
237 BC	Hamilcar Barca goes to Spain.
236 BC	Birth of the Roman general P. Cornelius Scipio, later Africanus.
236 BC	Gallic raids in northern Italy.
234 BC	Birth of the Roman statesman and general Cato the Censor in Tusculum.
233 BC	Roman general Q. Fabius Maximus Verrucosus wins a victory over the Gallic Ligurians.
232 BC	T. Flamininus passes a law for the distribution of the ager Gallicus.
229 - 228 BC	<u>First Illyrian War</u> - Romans start war with Queen Teuta.
228 BC	Death of the Carthaginian general Hamilcar Barca.
226 BC	Treaty defining river Iberus (Ebro) as border of influence between Rome and Carthage.
225 BC	Invading Gauls defeated in northern Italy.
223 BC	T. Flamininus is victorious in a war against the tribe the Insubres.
222 BC	Battle of Clastidium under the Roman general M. Claudius Marcellus, the Gallic Insubres of <u>Cisalpine Gaul</u> and their chieftain Viridomarus surrender
221 BC	The Spanish allied city of Saguntum appeals to Rome for help against Hannibal who succeeds to power in Carthaginian Spain.
220 BC	Construction begins on a new circus to be built on the Campus Martius. It was built by T. Flamininus, and is known as the Circus

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	Flaminius.
220 BC	The via Flaminia is built by the general T. Flaminius. It connects Italy to northern Greece.
219 BC	Capture of town of Saguntum by Hannibal.
219 BC	Second Illyrian War , ending in conquest of Illyria .
219 BC	The first foreign surgeon to practice in Rome arrives in the city.
218 - 202 BC	Second Punic War .
218 BC	Hannibal crosses Alps and arrives in northern Italy. Battle of Ticinus and Battle of Trebia.
218 BC	Lex Claudia is passed, which prohibits senators from owning vessels with the ability to be launched at sea.
217 BC	Battle of Lake Trasimene under Roman commander Gaius Flaminius. This ends in victory for the Carthaginians.
217 BC	Elevation of Q. Fabius Maximus later (Verucosis Cunctator) to Dictator.
217 BC	The Romans gain a victory in a naval encounter near the Ebro River.
217 BC	The Saturnalia festival is established. During the festival, masters were required to wait on their servants.
216 BC	Hannibal crushes a large Roman army at the Battle of Cannae under commanders G. Terentius Varro and L. Aemilius Paullus.
216 BC	Hannibal marches through the district of Cannae into Campania, and begins to plunder and ravage the countryside. Capua revolts against Rome.
215 BC	Hasdrubal defeated by Cn. and P. Cornelius Scipio at Dertosa, Spain .
215 BC	Battle of Nola.

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214 - 205 BC	First Macedonian War.
213 BC	Siege of Syracuse in Sicily begins.
213 BC	Hannibal captured Tarentum.
212 BC	Romans besiege the city of Capua.
212 BC	The senate decrees the start of a new festival, the Ludi Apollinares.
212 BC	The introduction of a new coinage to Rome, the denarius .
211 BC	Hannibal's march on Rome. Fall of Capua and Syracuse. Defeat of the Scipios in Spain .
211 BC	Rome enters into an alliance with the Aetolians against Macedonia .
210 BC	P. Cornelius Scipio (later Africanus) is given the command in Spain.
209 BC	Recapture of Tarentum. Capture of Carthago Nova.
208 BC	Scipio defeats army of Hasdrubal Barca near the town of Baecula.
207 BC	Victory for Rome in the Battle of Metaurus River.
206 BC	Battle of Ilipa. Victory for Rome in Spain .
205 BC	Scipio to Sicily.
205 BC	End of the First Macedonian War , essentially ends in a stalemate.
205 BC	The worship of the cult of Magna Mater is introduced to Rome from Phrygia.
204 BC	Scipio Invades Africa .
203 BC	Scipio defeats Syphax and wins battle of the Great Plains. Hannibal recalled to Carthage .
203 BC	King Syphax of Numidia is defeated and captured in the battle of Cirta.
202 BC	Scipio defeats Hannibal at the Battle of Zama . End of the Second Punic War .

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200 BC	Birth of the Greek historian Polybius, in Megalopolis, Arcadia, Greece.
200 - 197 BC	Second Macedonian War.
200 BC	Romans sack the Macedonian town of Acanthus.

Roman Timeline 2nd Century BC

Roman Timeline 2nd Century BC

Year

Event

198 BC

Quinctius Flamininus defeats the army of King Phillip in a battle near the Aous River.

197 BC

Revolt of Turdenati in Spain.

197 BC

Second Macedonian War ends with defeat of Philip V by T. Quinctius Flamininus at Cynoscephalae.

197 BC

Number of praetors is raised to six, to cover the growing number of Roman provinces.

196 BC

The city of Smyrna appeals to Rome for help against the attacks of King Antiochus III.

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195 BC

Hannibal Barca, exiled from Carthage joins Antiochus.

192 - 188 BC

Syrian War against Antiochus.

191 BC

Antiochus defeated at Thermopylae. Antiochus' fleet defeated off Corycus.

191 BC

Defeat of the Boii by P. Cornelius Scipio Nasica, son of Gn. Scipio and cousin of Scipio Africanus.

191 BC

Rome conquers and annexes what becomes known as the province of Cisalpine Gaul.

190 BC

An army under the command of King Antiochus III of Syria is defeated by Gnaeus Domitius Ahenobarbus and Eumenes II of Pergamum at Magnesia.

188 BC

Peace of Apamea ends the Syrian War.

187 BC

Construction of the Via Aemilia Lepidi, which still exists today.

187 - 173 BC

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Ligurian Wars in Spain.

184 BC

M. Porcius Cato the Elder is elected as censor, and is known afterwards as Cato the Censor.

184 BC

Construction of the first basilica, the Basilica Porcia in Rome.

183 BC

Death of the Roman general P. Cornelius Scipio Africanus, in Laternum, Campania. Death of the Carthaginian general Hannibal Barca, who poisons himself in order to avoid capture by the Romans.

181 - 179 BC

First Celtiberian War.

180 BC

The lex Villia annalis is passed by a tribune of the plebs L. Villius.

179 BC

A new bridge into Rome is completed. It is the first stone bridge, and is called the pons Aemilius. A new basilica is built in Rome by L. Aemilius Lepidus to celebrate his consulship. It is called the Basilica Aemilia.

174 BC

The Circus Maximus in Rome is rebuilt after suffering major structural damage.

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171 - 168 BC

Third Macedonian War.

169 BC

The lex Voconia de milierum hereditatibus is passed.

168 BC

Defeat of Macedonian King Perseus at Pydna.

168 BC

Historian Polybius is brought to Rome as a hostage from Megalopolis in Greece, and is made a guest of Scipio Aemilianus.

167 BC

Taxation of Roman citizens is abolished. Taxation now falls only upon allies.

167 BC

Epirus plundered. Macedonia divided into four parts, Illyricum into four.

163 BC

Birth of the tribune of the plebs and demagogue Ti. Sempronius Gracchus.

160 BC

Birth of Gaius Sempronius Gracchus. Birth of Numidian King Jugurtha.

157 BC

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The Roman general, statesman and 7 time consul, Gaius Marius, is born in the town of Arpinum.

157 - 155 BC

Campaigns in Dalmatia and Pannonia.

154 - 138 BC

Lusitanian War.

153 - 151 BC

Second Celtiberian War.

154 BC

The King of Cyrene, Ptolemy VII Euergetes Physcon, made his will, in which he promised that upon his death his kingdom would be bequeathed upon Rome.

154 BC

The road, the via Cassia, is built.

151 BC

Carthage declares war on King Masinissa of Numidia.

150 BC

Fourth Macedonian War.

149 - 146 BC

The Third Punic War. Siege of Carthage.

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149 BC

The work by the Roman writer, philosopher and statesman Cato the Censor, the *Origines* is published. It is a history of Rome up until that point in time. A lex Calpurnia is passed, which establishes a permanent *de repetundis*.

148 BC

End of Fourth Macedonian War, which ended with the defeat of Andriscus by Q. Caecilius Metellus.

147 BC

Macedonia annexed as a Roman province,

146 BC

Destruction of Carthage. Africa annexed.

146 BC

Achaean War: Roman wars against the league of Greek cities. Corinth destroyed by the Romans.

146 BC

The senate publishes a set of regulations known as the *leges provinciae*, which were basically constitutions and laws for each province.

146 BC

The first Roman temple to be built from marble, the temple of Jupiter Strator, is dedicated by Q. Metellus.

144 BC

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The aqueduct Aqua Marcia is built.

143 - 133 BC

Third Celtiberian War (also called Numantine War).

142 BC

Censorship of Scipio Aemilianus. Stone bridge over the Tiber.

138 BC

Birth of the Roman general and dictator L. Cornelius Sulla in Rome.

137 BC

Defeat and surrender of Mancinus in Spain.

135 BC

Birth of the tribune of the plebs L. Appuleius Saturninus, somewhere in Picenum. Birth of the historian Posidonius of Rhodes.

135 - 132 BC

Slave revolts in Sicily.

133 BC

King Attalus of Pergamum bequeaths his kingdom to Rome in a will upon his death.

133 BC

After opposing the legislation of Ti. Sempronius Gracchus, a fellow tribune named Octavius was voted out of office by Gracchus. This was

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a precedent in Roman history, as Gracchus was the first tribune to do this.

133 BC

Death of Ti. Sempronius Gracchus after the passing of his land bills. The consular P. Cornelius Scipio Nasica, who was an ardent opponent of Gracchus's legislation and methods, clubbed him to death.

131 BC

A new set of laws, passed by the tribune G. Papirius Carbo, the leges tabellariae, enacted secret balloting in Rome for the first time.

129 BC

Annexation of the Roman Asia Province.

129 BC

The province of Illyria is annexed into the Empire.

125 BC

M. Fulvius Flaccus, an adherent of the ideals of G. Sempronius Gracchus, proposes a bill to enfranchise the Latin citizens of Italy.

124 BC

War against Arverni and Allobroges in Gaul.

124 BC

Birth of the future tribune M. Livius Drusus.

123 - 122 BC

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Tribunate of Gaius Gracchus, in which the Senatus consultum ultimum de res publica defendenda is passed (otherwise known as the Senatus Consultum Ultimum, was the ultimate decree, used only in times of crisis).

123 BC

Birth of the Roman rebel General Q. Sertorius, in the town of Nersia, Sabini.

123 BC

The tribune of the plebs G. Sempronius Gracchus passes a bill which makes the senate separate from the Ordo Equester, or the knights.

122 - 121 BC

The Gallic tribe of the Arverni are subjugated by the Roman general Gn. Domitius Ahenobarbus. Gallia Narbonensis made a province.

122 BC

After passing a law in the plebeian assembly, G. Gracchus eliminates most unemployment by engaging the unemployed in building roads.

122 BC

A new city, Colonia Junonia, is ordered to be built on the site of old Carthage. It only lasts 30 years.

122 BC

For the first time, the juries of the courts are taken off of senators and given to the knights of the ordo Equester.

121 BC

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Death of Gaius Gracchus, who was murdered in the grove of Furrina, near Rome by a mob lead by the consul L. Opimius, sparking civil disorder.

121 BC

A road, the via Domitia, is built after the conquests of Gn. Domitius Ahenobarbus, and it runs along the coastline of Italy and southern Gaul.

119 BC

Tribunate of G. Marius, abolition of the Gracchus land reforms.

113 - 101 BC

Germanic Cimbri and Teutones invade Roman territories.

113 BC

Cn. Carbo defeated at Noreia by the Cimbri.

112 - 106 BC

Jugurthine War. Jugurtha sacks Cirta.

110 BC

Birth of the Roman statesman and triumvir M. Licinius Crassus.

109 BC

The consul Q. Caecilius Metellus is appointed as the new commander in the Jugurthine War and has some success.

109 BC

Silanus defeated by the Germanics.

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107 BC

First consulship of Gaius Marius, who is given command in war against Jugurtha. (First of seven consulships)

107 - 101 BC

G. Marius makes reforms in the Legions.

107 BC

L. Cassius Longus is defeated by the Tigurini near Tolosa.

106 BC

King Jugurtha is betrayed by his brother-in-law King Bocchus of Mauretania. He is captured by the quaestor of Marius, L. Cornelius Sulla.

106 BC

Birth of Pompey the Great, in Picenum. Birth of M. Tullius Cicero, in the town of Arpinum, Latium.

105 BC

Cimbri and Teutones destroy Roman armies at Arausio.

104 BC

Death of King Jugurtha of Numidia.

104 - 100 BC

Second Sicilian slave war.

104 BC

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The lex Domitia de sacerdotiis is passed.

102 - 101

Marius proceeds to defeat the German Cimbri and Teutones with Q. Lutatius Catulus Caesar, at the battles of Aquae Sextiae and Vercellae.

101 BC

Cilicia is annexed as a province of Rome.

100 BC

Riots of Saturninus, order restored by Marius.

100 BC

Birth of Gaius Julius Caesar.

Roman Timeline 1st Century BC

Roman Timeline 1st Century BC

Year

Event

98 BC

Revolt in Lusitania, Hispania

97 BC Q. Caecilius Metellus Nepos conquers the island of Crete
96 BC The last Ptolemy ruler of Cyrenacia dies, and it is willed over to Rome.

95 BC Sulla is sent to Cappadocia to place King Ariobarzanes on the throne after he was deposed by King Mithridates of Pontus

95 BC Birth of Cato the Younger in Rome.

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- 93 BC T. Didius completes a victory over the Celtiberians in Spain.
- 91 BC Second Sicilian Slave war ended by Roman general Manius Aquillius.
- 91 BC The tribune of the plebs M. Livius Drusus tries to legislate for total Italian citizenship.
- 91 BC The Italian city of Asculum massacres its Roman citizens and prepares for Roman reprisals.
- 91 - 88 BC Social War between Rome and its Italian allies .
- 90 BC The legate Gn. Pompeius Strabo creates a blockade around the city of Asculum.
- 90 BC The consul L. Julius Caesar passes a law, the lex Julia de civitate Latinus et sociis danda, which gives the citizenship to those Italians who had not taken up arms against Rome.
- 89 BC Roman victories at Nola and Corfinium.
- 89 BC L. Cornelius Sulla captures the rebel Italian city of Bovianum Vetus.
- 88 BC Consul Gn. Pompeius Strabo lays siege to Asculum.
- 88 BC Q. Caecilius Metellus Pius met and defeated the army of the Italian Q. Pompaedius Silo.
- 88 BC The proconsul Man. Aquillius invades the Pontic territories with the militia of Asia Province and the army of King Nicomedes of Bithynia.
- 89 - 85 BC First Mithraditic War.
- 88 BC King Mithridates of Pontus invades Greece and issues an edict that all Romans and Italians are to be killed. The number of dead reaches about 110,000 people.
- 88 BC L. Cornelius Sulla marches upon Rome, the first in history to do so.
- 87 - 86 BC Marius marches on Rome with L. Cornelius Cinna, and after a short battle, he occupied Rome. Marius and Cinna are made joint consuls. Proscriptions against Sulla's supporters. This ceased when Marius died of a third and fatal stroke in 86, during his seventh consulship
- 86 BC Sulla conquers Athens, defeat Mithridates armies at Chaeronea and Orchomenus.
- 86 BC The orator M. Tullius Cicero completes his first work on rhetoric, De Inventione Rhetorica.
- 85 BC Treaty of Dardanus with Mithridates.
- 84 BC The new Italian citizens enfranchised by the lex Julia, lex Pompeia and lex Papiria are redistributed throughout all thirty-five tribes of Rome.
- 83 BC The Roman governor of Spain and future triumvir M. Licinius Crassus joins forces with Sulla.

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- 83 BC L. Cornelius Sulla lands in Italy at the port city of Brundisium, and wages a civil war against the remaining Marian forces.
- 83 BC L. Licinius Murena starts up a war against Mithridates.
- 82 BC The battle of Clusium, which is indecisive occurs under the Marian general Gn. Papirius Carbo against L. Cornelius Sulla.
- 82 BC Battle of Faventia, in which the Sullan general Q. Caecilius Metellus Pius defeated the army of Gn. Papirius Carbo.
- 82 BC After suffering defeats by Mithridates, Murena is recalled to Rome on the pretext of celebrating a triumph. L. Cornelius Sulla and Mithridates agree to a new peace treaty.
- 82 BC Gn. Papirius Carbo flees to Sicily, where he is captured by the Sullan general Gn. Pompeius Magnus and executed in the town of Lilybaeum.
- 82 BC Birth of Marcus Antonius.
- 82 BC L. Cornelius Sulla is victorious at the battle of the Coline Gate at Rome.
- 81 BC Sulla appointed dictator and reforms the constitution.
- 81 BC Julius Caesar is forced to divorce his wife by Sulla, but he refuses and flees to Asia and joins in the campaign against Mithridates.
- 80 BC The start of the Sertorian War under Q. Sertorius in Spain, one of the remaining Marian generals.
- 80 BC G. Julius Caesar goes with an army under L. Licinius Lucullus to suppress a revolt at the city of Mitylene on the island of Lesbos. He is awarded the corona civica (oak crown) for saving a cohort from destruction.
- 80 BC M. Tullius Cicero has his first major case defending Sex. Roscius against the proscriptions of Sulla. He wins, and publishes the trial as Pro Sextius Roscius Amerino.
- 79 BC The city of Nola surrenders during the Italian War and the city is razed to the ground.
- 79 BC Sulla resigns the dictatorship.
- 78 BC Death of L. Cornelius Sulla, in a villa outside the city of Puteoli.
- 78 BC P. Servilis starts three year campaign against pirates, accompanied by Julius Caesar.
- 78 BC The revolt of the anti-Sullan consul M. Aemilius Lepidus. Routed by Q. Lutatius Catulus at a battle near the Quirinal hill at Rome.
- 77 BC Julius Caesar conducts his first trial. He prosecutes the governor of Macedonia, Gn. Cornelius Dolabella Minor.
- 77 BC The remnants of the defeated army of the rebel Lepidus join the forces of Q. Sertorius in Spain.
- 77 BC Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus (Pompey) arrives in Spain.

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- 76 BC Metellus Pius inflicts a minor defeat on the Sertorian lieutenant L. Hirtuleius.
- 76 BC P. Servilius Vatia ejects the pirates from Pamphylia, destroying the stronghold of a pirate admiral known as Zenecities.
- 75 BC Q. Caecilius Metellus Pius annihilates the army of the Sertorian lieutenant Lucius Hirtuleius at the Battle of Segovia.
- 75 BC The Roman general Gn. Pompeius Magnus is defeated in a battle with Q. Sertorius near the River Sucro and later enters an indecisive battle near the town of Saguntum.
- 75 BC Caesar captured by pirates.
- 74 - 64 BC Third Mithradatic War.
- 74 BC The Roman consular M. Aurelius Cotta is defeated in a battle near the town of Chalcedon.
- 74 BC Creation of the new Roman province of Bithynia, later renamed Bithynia-Pontus. Cyrenaica also made a Roman province.
- 74 BC M. Antonius makes slight inroads into the pirate menace in the western seas, thereby helping Pompeius Magnus against Q. Sertorius.
- 73 - 71 BC Slave war of Spartacus.
- 73 BC L. Licinius Lucullus defeats a Pontic squadron off Lemnos under an admiral named Archelaeus.
- 72 BC End of the Sertorian War. Q. Sertorius is killed in Spain, murdered by his legate M. Perperna Viento.
- 72 BC L. Licinius Lucullus engages in a battle with an invading force of Thracian tribes, and defeats them.
- 72 BC M. Antonius transfers his fleets to the Aegean region, where he firstly suffers a naval defeat off the island of Crete, and then is defeated again in a land battle on Crete.
- 71 BC End of the Third Servile War, when Spartacus' army is defeated in Lucania by M. Licinius Crassus. The 6,000 survivors are crucified down the length of the Via Appia.
- 71 BC Capture of the town of Heraclea by M. Aurelius Cotta.
- 70 BC The consuls are M. Licinius Crassus (first time) and Gn. Pompeius Magnus (first time).
- 70 BC The defeat of Mithridates forces near the fortress of Cabira.
- 70 BC Passing of the lex Aurelia.
- 70 BC Marcus Tullius Cicero prosecutes the governor G. Verres on behalf of his Sicilian clients.
- 70 BC The kingdom of Pontus is annexed and created into a new province by L. Licinius Lucullus.
- 70 BC Birth of the great Roman poet Virgil, near Mantua, in Cisalpine Gaul.
- 69 BC Birth of Cleopatra, queen of Egypt.
- 69 BC Pirates attack the port of Ostia.
- 69 BC L. Licinius Lucullus invades Armenia.

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- 69 BC Pirates sack Delos.
- 68 BC Julius Caesar marries Pompeia Sulla, the granddaughter of Sulla and a relative of Gn. Pompeius Magnus.
- 68 BC L. Licinius Lucullus defeats the combined forces of King Mithridates and King Tigranes near Artaxata.
- 68 - 67 BC The ex-consul Q. Caecilius Metellus fights two hard campaigns against the pirates of Crete, subdues the island and annexes it as a Roman province.
- 67 BC The tribune A. Gabinius passes his lex Gabinia. This gives a command to Gn. Pompeius Magnus, who is given unlimited imperium on water to fight against the growing pirate menace.
- 67 BC Mithradates defeats Lucullus at Zela. Lucullus stripped of command.
- 67 BC Pompey takes command in the east and creates the province of Syria.
- 66 BC A law passed by a tribune of the plebs, the lex Manlia, gives Pompey the command against the two kings Mithridates and Tigranes.
- 66 BC Gn. Pompeius Magnus defeats King Mithridates at the battle of Dastria.
- 63 BC Death of Mithradates. Cicero elected Consul. Caesar elected Pontifex Maximus. Birth of Octavian (Augustus) and Marcus Vipsanius Agrippa.
- 62 BC Pompey settles matters in the east, returns to Italy and disbands his army.
- 62 BC Julius Caesar is elected as praetor.
- 59 BC Caesar elected Consul and the First Triumvirate is formed by M. Licinius Crassus, Gn. Pompeius Magnus and G. Julius Caesar.
- 59 BC Birth of the Roman historian Livy the Elder, who was born in the city of Patavium, Italy.
- 59 BC Lex Vatinia was passed, which gave Caesar the governorship of Cisalpine Gaul and Illyricum for five years.
- 58 - 51 BC Caesar's War against the Gauls.
- 58 BC Cicero exiled. Cyprus annexed by Clodius, which is overseen by M. Porcius Cato. Caesar defeats Helvetii and Ariovistus.
- 58 BC King Ptolemy Auletes of Egypt is driven out of Alexandria.
- 57 BC Gangs under P. Clodius Pulcher and T. Annus Milo start street warfare in Rome. Return of Cicero.
- 57 BC G. Julius Caesar subdues the tribes of the Belgae, such as the Nervii and the Atrebates.
- 56 BC Caesar suppresses the revolt of the Gallic Morini.
- 56 BC Conference of the First Triumvirate at Luca.
- 55 BC Caesar defeats two immigrating German tribes, the Usipetes and Tencteri, then bridges the Rhine to invade Germania. (first Roman to do so)
- 55 BC Caesar invades Britannia.

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55 BC Gn. Pompeius Magnus builds and dedicates the first stone theatre in Rome near the Campus Martius.

55 BC M. Tullius Cicero writes his work, De Oratore.

54 BC Caesar's second invasion of Britannia. Crassus prepares for war against Parthia.

54 BC A. Gabinius is sent to Egypt to restore King Ptolemy Auletes to his throne in Alexandria.

53 BC

Nervii revolt in Gaul, and other revolts force Caesar to abandon Britain.

53 - 52 BC More rioting in Rome.

53 BC Vercingetorix revolts in Gaul

53 BC Defeat of Roman Army at the Battle of Carrhae against the Parthians under the Triumvir M. Licinius Crassus, who is killed in the battle.

52 BC T. Labienus defeats an army of Gauls under the command of Camulogenus near the site of Lutetia.

52 BC Caesar builds two sets of fortifications 42 miles and lays Siege to Alesia. With approximately 42,000 men, Caesar besieges 100,000 Gauls within the fort and holds out 250,000 men in a relief force on the outside.

52 BC The provinces of Belgica, Aquitania and Lugdunesis are created.

52 BC Gn. Pompeius Magnus is elected as consul without a colleague in an attempt to prevent him from assuming the dictatorship.

51 BC The Parthians invade the province of Syria after the defeat of Crassus.

49 - 45 BC Civil War between Caesar and the Republican forces of Pompey.

49 BC Caesar crosses the Rubicon.

49 BC Caesar surrounds the Pompeian commander L. Domitius Ahenobarbus and three legions at Corfinium.

49 BC Battle of Utica in Africa, G. Scribonius Curio defeats a large number of Numidian horse and foot sent by King Juba to aid Attius Varus.

49 BC The Pompeian legates M. Petronius and L. Afranius are defeated by Caesar at the battle of Ilerda.

48 BC Caesar defeated at the Battle of Dyrrachium, then defeats Pompey at Pharsalus.

48 BC Death of Pompey the Great, decapitated in Egypt by Ptolemy XII.

47 BC While in Alexandria to sort out the dynastic dispute between the Ptolemies, Caesar is attacked and trapped in the palace quarter of Alexandria by the young King Ptolemy XII.

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- 47 BC Battle of Zela, with Caesar and his army against Pharnaces of Pontus, a son of Mithridates, and his army. Famous quote *veni, vidi, vici* (I came, I saw, I conquered).
- 47 BC The tenth legion, Caesar's favorite from the Gallic Wars, mutinies and marches on Rome. Caesar stops the mutiny.
- 46 BC Battle of Thapsus in Africa. Caesar destroyed the Pompeian garrison under Q. Metellus Scipio.
- 46 BC Caesar reforms the Roman calendar via Egyptian astrologists. Aside from the later Gregorian adjustments, the months and number of days virtually coincides with today's calendar. The Julian calendar is introduced to Rome, and the month of Caesar's birthday, Quintillis, is renamed as Julius (July).
- 45 BC Republican forces defeated at Munda.
- 45 BC Cicero publishes his work, *Academica*.
- 44 BC Ides of March. March 15, Caesar murdered by Brutus, Cassius, and their co-conspirators acting for the Republicans. Octavian returns from Greece.
- 44 BC Cicero completes his work *De Officiis*.
- 44 - 43 BC M. Tullius Cicero delivers the '12 Phillipics' against M. Antonius, in order to urge the senate to declare war against Antonius.
- 43 BC A battle at Forum Gallorum between Octavian and Antony.
- 43 BC Brutus is defeated and killed in Gaul by M. Antonius.
- 43 BC Murder of Cicero. Birth of the Roman writer Ovid, in the city of Sulmo, Italy.
- 42 BC Julius Caesar deified.
- 42 BC The second battle of Phillipi in which the assassin of Caesar, G. Cassius Longinus, is killed by G. Julius Caesar Octavianus and M. Antonius.
- 41 BC The Perusine war in Italy, under command of Octavian Lucius Antonius defeated.
- 43 & 40 BC Founding and reconfirmation of the Second Triumvirate between Octavian, Antony and Lepidus.
- 40 BC Herod is appointed as king of Judaea by the Senate.
- 40 BC A Parthian invasion, under Pacorus of Syria takes place.
- 39 - 38 BC An army of reinforcements under P. Ventidius defeats the Parthian invasion at the battles of Mt. Amanus and Mt. Gindarus.
- 37 BC Antony marries Cleopatra at Antioch.
- 37 - 31 BC The Roman poet Horace writes the Satires.
- 36 BC The son of Gn. Pompeius Magnus, Sex. Pompeius Magnus Pius is defeated by the legate of Octavian, M. Vipsanius Agrippa.
- 36 BC Triumvirate breaks up when M. Aemilius Lepidus is removed from power by Octavian.
- 36 BC Battle between Antony and a Parthian army under the command of King Phraates IV near Phraaspa.
- 31 BC Battle of Actium. Octavian (Agrippa) defeats Antonius and Cleopatra and effectively takes control of the entire empire.

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- 30 BC Death of Antony and Cleopatra in Alexandria.
- 30 BC Egypt is annexed as an imperial province of Rome.
- 30 BC The Roman writer and poet, Horace, completes his work the *Epodes*.
- 29 BC The doors of the temple of Janus are closed ushering in the Pax Romana or Roman Peace. Dedication of Temple of Divus Julius.
- 28 BC Octavian named Princeps Senatus.
- 27 BC Octavian named Augustus and is officially the first Emperor of Rome.
- 27 BC The Praetorian Guard is established by Augustus.
- 27 - 25 BC Augustus directs the final subjugation of Spain and the administrative reorganization of Spain and Gaul.
- 25 BC The province of Galatia is annexed into the Empire.
- 23 BC The Senate grants Augustus the titles and powers of Imperium proconsulare maius and tribunicia potestas for life, giving him complete control of the State and ending the Roman Republic.
- 23 BC The Roman writer Horace completes his works the *Odes*.
- 22 BC Abolishment of the office of censor.
- 20 BC Augustus recovers the standards of the legions lost by Crassus from the Parthians.
- 20 BC Reconstruction on the Great Temple in Jerusalem is begun by King Herod Agrippa.
- 19 BC The Roman poet Virgil completes one of the great literary pieces in history, the *Aeneid*, shortly before his death.
- 19 BC The arch of Augustus is constructed in Rome.
- 18 BC Birth of the Germanic leader Arminius.
- 17 BC Establishment of the ludi seculares, or the secular games, in honor of Augustus.
- 16 BC The province of Noricum is incorporated in the Empire.
- 15 BC Tiberius and Drusus both defeat the Germanic tribes of the Vindelici and Rhaeti.
- 13 BC Dedication of the theatre of Marcellus in Rome.
- 13 - 9 BC Campaigns against Pannonia and Germania.
- 12 BC Death of Agrippa.
- 9 BC The Ara Pacis Augustae (Altar to Augustan Peace) is completed.
- 5 BC Estimated date of the birth of Jesus Christ.
- 2 BC Construction of the Forum of Augustus is completed.
- 2 BC The Dedication of the temple of Mars Ultor in Rome.
- Roman Timeline 1st Century AD

Roman Timeline 1st Century AD

Year

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Event

4 AD

Adoption of Tiberius as heir to Augustus after the deaths of Gaius and Lucius Caesar.

5 AD

Tiberius campaigns in Germania.

6 AD

Revolts in Pannonia and Illyricum.

8 AD

The future emperor Claudius is appointed an augur, his only official post under Augustus.

9 AD

Birth of the Emperor Vespasian in the town of Reate.

9 AD

The Battle of Teutoburg Forest between P. Quintilius ending in a complete route (including the destruction of 3 legions) for Rome.

9 AD

The Ara Pacis (Altar of Peace) is completed by Augustus in Rome.

14 AD

Death of the Emperor Augustus, in the city of Nola in Italy. Ascension of Tiberius

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14 AD

Mutiny of the Rhine legions upon the news of the death of Augustus which is quelled by Germanicus Caesar.

14 - 16 AD

Germanicus Caesar campaigns against the Germanic tribes.

14 AD

L. Aelius Sejanus is appointed as Praetorian Prefect.

14 AD

Death of the Roman historian Livy, in the city of Patavium, Italy.

14 AD

The aqueduct, the Pont du Gard, is completed near modern Nimes in Gaul.

15 AD

Birth of the Emperor Nero in the city of Antium.

15 AD

Emperor Tiberius transfers the elections from the popular assemblies to the Senate.

15 AD

Birth of the Emperor Vitellius.

17 AD

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Death of the Roman writer Ovid, who died in Tomis, Moesia while in exile, apparently because of offenses to Augustus' moral code.

19 AD

Death of Germanicus, possibly but not necessarily by the direct order of Tiberius.

22 AD

Construction of the Castra Praetoria (Praetorian barracks) by Sejanus is completed and the Praetorians are forever changed into a political force.

23 AD

Birth of the Roman historian Pliny the Elder, in the town of Novum Comum, in Italy.

26 AD

Pontius Pilate is appointed as the prefect of Judaea.

26 AD

Tiberius retires to his estate on Capri, effectively giving Sejanus unlimited imperial authority.

28 AD

John the Baptist is executed by Herod Antipas, son of King Herod in Judaea.

29 AD

Livia, the wife of Augustus dies in Rome at the age of 86.

30 AD

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Birth of the Emperor Nerva in the city of Narnia.

31 AD

Execution of Sejanus, for conspiracy against Tiberius. Replaced by Gn. Naevius Sutorius Macro.

32 - 36 AD

Estimated date of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

32 AD

Birth of the Emperor Otho in the city of Ferentium.

37 AD

Death of Tiberius on the island of Capri. Caligula ascends to the throne.

37 AD

Birth of the historian Flavius Josephus, in Jerusalem.
Birth of the Emperor Nero, in the town of Antium.

39 AD

Caligula marches with the legions to Germania in a 'mock' campaign.

39 AD

Caligula bridges the Bay of Naples with boats from Baiae to Puteoli

40 AD

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Caligula marches to the English Channel with the intention of invading Britain. Instead, the legions collect sea shells and he returns to Rome to celebrate a fabricated triumph.

40 AD

Birth of the Emperor Titus. Birth of the Roman general Gn. Julius Agricola, in the province of Gallia Narbonensis.

40 AD

Emperor Caligula orders that a statue of himself is to be erected in the temple at Jerusalem. Herod delays implementation long enough to prevent wide-spread revolt in Judaea.

41 AD

Caligula is assassinated by the Praetorian Guard. Claudius, supposedly found hiding in the curtains of the palace is hailed the new Caesar.

41 AD

The Roman writer Seneca is banished to the island of Corsica after he is accused of committing adultery with Claudius's wife Messalina.

41 AD

Livia, the wife of Augustus, is finally deified by the senate.

43 AD

Claudius begins the first large-scale Roman invasion of Britain, at first under the command of general A. Plautius.

43 AD

Lycia is annexed into the empire.

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44 AD

Judaea is annexed as a Roman province after the death of Herod Agrippa.

46 AD

The client kingdom of Thrace is annexed into the empire as a province.

47 AD

The Roman general Gn. Domitius Corbulo defeats the Frisii.

47 AD

Claudius celebrates the Secular Games, as Rome celebrates the 800th anniversary of the founding of the city.

49 AD

Claudius passes an edict expelling all Jews from Rome.

50 AD

Claudius adopts Nero as heir.

51 AD

Birth of the Emperor Domitian in Rome.

54 AD

Death and deification of Claudius. Nero ascends to the throne.

56 AD

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Birth of the great Roman historian Tacitus, probably in Rome.

56 - 57 AD

Nero expels actors from Rome and dictates reforms of circuses and festivals.

58 AD

The Roman general Gn. Domitius Corbulo conquers Armenia, after the capture of the capital Artaxata.

61 AD

In Britain, Boudicca, the queen of the Iceni tribe, leads a revolt against Roman occupation.

62 AD

Birth of the Roman historian Pliny the Younger in Italy.

62 AD

Suetonius Paullus defeats the Iceni revolt of Boudicca, who commits suicide.

62 AD

Lucius Caesennius Paetus in Armenia surrenders to invading Parthians after a defeat at Rhandeia. Gn. Domitius Corbulo returns and invades Parthia.

62 AD

Nero divorces his wife Octavia and marries his mistress Poppaea Sabina.

62 AD

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The first signs of volcanic activity are recorded in Mt. Vesuvius, when an earthquake damages some nearby Campanian towns. (Much of which damage would never be repaired prior to its eruption some 18 years later.)

64 AD

The Great Fire of Rome speculated to have been started by Nero to make room for his palace. Christians Persecuted as scapegoats. Nero begins construction of the domus aurea (the Golden House).

65 AD

A plot against the Emperor Nero, known as the 'Pisonian Conspiracy', led by G. Calpurnius Piso. Nineteen men are executed or forced to commit suicide.

65 AD

Death of Nero's wife, Poppaea, whom he kicked to death after an argument.

67 AD

The future Emperor Vespasian is sent to Judaea to put down a Jewish revolt.

67 AD

Nero enters the Olympic games and is named the winner of every he event he enters.

67 AD

Death of Paul the Apostle.

68 AD

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Widespread revolt forces Nero to commit suicide, sparking civil war.

68 - 69 AD

Year of the four emperors.

69 AD

Death of the Emperor Galba. Executed by members of the Praetorian Guard.

69 AD

The German legions proclaim Vitellius as emperor. He defeats rival Otho at Bedriacum and is victorious. Otho commits suicide.

69 AD

A fire breaks out on the Capitoline Hill, destroying much of Rome's archives.

69 AD

Battle of Cremona, in which Emperor Vitellius is defeated (killed) by one of the armies of Vespasian.

69 AD

Birth of the Roman historian Suetonius, in Rome.

69 AD

Vespasian proclaimed emperor, and while consolidation would take another 6 months his reign marked the end of the civil wars.

70 AD

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Titus, the son of Emperor Vespasian, captures Jerusalem after a four month siege.

71 - 74 AD

Petilius Cerealis conquers the Brigantes in modern Yorkshire.

73 AD

The final Jewish stronghold, Masada, is captured after a long seige.

73 AD

The nomadic Sarmatians, the Alans, invade Parthia and Armenia.

74 - 78 AD

The governor of Britain, Julius Frontinus, defeats the Silures in modern South Wales.

75 AD

The construction of the Temple of Peace is completed. The temple of Jupiter Capitolinus is rebuilt.

76 AD

Parthian invasion of Syria is repulsed.

76 AD

Birth of the Emperor Hadrian, in Rome.

77 - 84 AD

Final conquest of Britain by Gn. Julius Agricola.

77 AD

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The Roman writer Pliny the Elder completes his work *Naturalis Historia* (Natural History).

79 AD

Death of Vespasian. Ascension of his son, Titus.

79 AD

Mt. Vesuvius erupts burying the towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum. Pliny the Elder suffocates by getting too close in order to record the event.

80 AD

The Flavian Ampitheatre (Colosseum), begun by Vespasian, is completed by the Emperor Titus.

80 AD

Destruction of the Capitoline temple. The dedication of the Baths of Titus.

81 AD

Arch of Titus is constructed in Rome.

81 AD

Death of Titus, possibly at the hands of his brother Domitian. Domitian succeeds Titus as Emperor.

81 AD

The Roman general Gn. Julius Agricola campaigns in Caledonia.

82 AD

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The Capitoline temple is restored and dedicated.

83 AD

Domitian campaigns in Germania.

84 AD

The Roman general Gn. Julius Agricola defeats the Caledonians under Calgacus at the battle of Mons Graupius.

85 AD

Invasion of Moesia by the Dacians under Decebalus.

86 AD

Emperor Antoninus Pius is born in the town of Lanuvium.

87 AD

Gn. Julius Agricola is recalled to Rome by Emperor Domitian, who seemed to be jealous of Agricola's victories.

88 AD

Tettius Julianus defeats the Dacians at Tapae.

89 AD

A short-lived peace treaty is signed between Rome and Dacia by Emperor Domitian and King Decebalus.

89 AD

Domitian campaigns against the Chatti.

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90 AD

The head of the Vestal Virgins, Cornelia, is buried alive as punishment for promiscuity. Her lovers are beaten to death.

93 AD

Death of the Roman general Gn. Julius Agricola.

93 - 96 AD

'Reign of Terror' of Domitian.

96 AD

Assassination of the Emperor Domitian.

96 AD

With the ascension of Nerva, the era of the "Five Good Emperors" begins.

97 AD

The future emperor Trajan is made governor in Germania and adopted as 'Caesar' or heir by Nerva.

97 AD

The alimenta (a form of social welfare for poor children and aid for farmers) is instituted.

97 AD

A Chinese embassy en route to Rome is perhaps turned back in Mesopotamia by the Parthians.

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98 AD

Death of the Emperor Nerva who is succeeded by Trajan.

98 AD

Tacitus finishes two of his books, the Agricola and the Germania.

98 AD

Trajan defeats the Bructeri in Germania and returns to Rome as a hero.

Roman Timeline 2nd Century AD

Roman Timeline 2nd Century AD

Year

Event

101 AD

Start of Trajan's Dacian Wars against King Decebalus. Battle of Tibiscum.

101 AD

Death of the historian Flavius Josephus.

106 AD

Trajan captures the city of Petra.

106 AD

Annexation of the province of Arabia Petraea by Trajan.

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107 AD

The kingdom of Dacia is annexed by Trajan.

109 AD

The Roman writer Tacitus completes *The Annals of Imperial Rome* and *The Histories*.

113 AD

Annexation of Armenia as a province by Trajan. Trajan's column is built in Rome. Death of the Roman historian Pliny the Younger, in Bithynia.

114 AD

The Arch of Trajan is completed in Beneventum.

114 - 118 AD

Revolt of the Jews in Cyrenaica, Egypt and Cyprus.

116 AD

Conquest of much of Parthia by Trajan. The Roman Empire reaches its greatest size, 3.5 million square miles, and an estimated 60 million people.

117 AD

Battle of Hatra, Trajan fails in the siege attempt and retires from the eastern campaign.

117 AD

Death of Trajan, accession of Hadrian.

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118 AD

Hadrian cancels public debt withdraws from Trajan's eastern conquests and partial withdrawal from Dacia.

120 AD

Death of the great Roman historian Tacitus.

121 AD

Beginning of Hadrian's travels throughout the empire.

121 AD

Birth of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius in Rome.

122 AD

Death of the Roman historian Suetonius.

122 AD

The construction of Hadrian's Wall is started .

123 AD

The Roman Pantheon is rebuilt by Hadrian. A Moorish revolt takes place in the province of Mauretania.

125 AD

Hadrian returns to Rome.

126 AD

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Birth of the Emperor Publius Helvius Pertinax, in the town of Alba Pompeia Liguria.

128 AD

Completion of the original stretch of Hadrian's Wall.

132 AD

The Jewish revolt of Simeon Bar-Kochba takes places.

133 AD

Birth of the Emperor Julianus.

135 AD

Birth of the Emperor Pescennius Niger, in Italy.

135 AD

The Bar-Kochba revolt is suppressed.

138 AD

Death of Hadrian, Accession of Antoninus Pius as the new emperor.

139 AD

The British Brigantes tribe are defeated by Lollius Urbicus.

140 AD

The emperor Antoninus Pius institutes the Puellae Faustinianae, a charity foundation for daughters of the poorer people of Rome.

142 AD

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NEW TESTAMENT INTRODUCTION

Construction of the Antonine Wall is completed in Caledonia.

145 AD

Birth of the Emperor Albinus, in the town of Hadrumentum.

146 AD

Birth of the future emperor L. Septimius Severus near Leptis Magna, in Africa.

152 AD

Revols in the province of Egypt.

154 AD

Revolt of the Brigantes.

155 AD

Birth of the historian Dio Cassius, in the city of Nicaea, in Bithynia.

158 AD

Birth of the Emperor Gordian I.

161 AD

Death of the Emperor Antonius Pius. Accession of Marcus Aurelius and co-emperor Lucius Verus. Birth of the Emperor Commodus.

162 AD

The Parthians invade the Roman province of Armenia.

164 AD

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Birth of the Emperor Macrinus, in the city of Caesarea.

165 - 166 AD

Avidius Cassius invades Parthia.

165 - 167 AD

An outbreak of the plague (Antonine) throughout the Roman Empire.

167 - 180 AD

Beginning of the Marcomannic and Quadi wars under Marcus Aurelius

167 AD

The plague devastates Rome, killing an estimated tenth of the population.

168 AD

Marcus Aurelius defeats the Marcomanni.

169 AD

Death of L. Verus.

172 AD

An Egyptian revolt is put down by Avidius Cassius.

173 AD

The Marcomanni are again defeated and devastated in the Germanic Wars

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174 AD

Marcus Aurelius defeats another Germanic tribe, the Quadi.

175 - 180 AD

Marcus Aurelius writes/completes Meditations.

175 AD

Marcus Aurelius defeats the last of the major tribes in the Germanic war, the Iazyges.

175 AD

A revolt by noted general G. Avidius Cassius against Marcus Aurelius takes place but is quickly suppressed by his own legionaries.

177 AD

Commodus is made joint emperor with Marcus Aurelius.

177 AD

Revolts in Mauretania.

180 AD

Death of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius at Sirmium in Pannonia.
Accession of Commodus and end of the era now known as the "5 Good Emperors"

180 AD

Commodus makes peace with the various Germanic and Sarmatian tribes.

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NEW TESTAMENT INTRODUCTION

183 AD

A plot against Commodus is foiled.

184 AD

In Britannia, the Roman forces led by Ulpius Marcellus lost the Antonine Wall to raiding Caledonians and Picts.

186 AD

A military revolt in Britain is put down by future emperor P. Helvius Pertinax.

188 AD

Birth of the Emperor Caracalla.

188 AD

More military revolts in Germania.

189 AD

Birth of the Emperor Geta in Rome.

190 AD

Birth of the Emperor Decius, who was born near the city of Sirmium.

190 AD

Death of Praetorian Prefect M. Aurelius Cleander.

190 AD

Revolts in Africa are suppressed by P. Helvius Pertinax.

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NEW TESTAMENT INTRODUCTION

192 AD

Assassination of the Emperor Commodus. Birth of the Emperor Gordian II.

192 AD

Imperial archives in Rome are destroyed by fire.

193 AD

P. Helvius Pertinax is hailed as the new emperor of Rome. Later killed by the Praetorian Guard after ruling for only 87 days.

193 AD

Emperor Julianus buys the position of emperor from the praetorians sparking civil war. Later executed after a 66 day rule.

193 AD

Septimus Severus is proclaimed as emperor of Rome, as is Pescennius Niger and Clodius Albinus.

193 AD

Completion of the Column of Marcus Aurelius, in honor of his victories over the Marcomanni.

194 AD

Battles between the forces of Pescennius Niger and Septimus Severus near the city of Cyzicus and Nicea. Severus victorious at Issus.

195 AD

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Birth of the Emperor Valerian. Death of the Emperor Pescennius Niger, who was captured and killed by troops of Septimus Severus.

195 AD

The new Emperor Septimus Severus brings the Parthians and Adiabenians under Roman authority.

196 AD

The city of Byzantium is sacked by Emperor Septimus Severus after a long siege.

197 AD

Clodius Albinus meets Severus in battle at Lugdunum and Albinus is defeated and killed. Severus stands as the lone emperor.

198 AD

Capture of the Parthian capital of Ctesiphon by Emperor Septimus Severus, who re-annexed the province of Mesopotamia which had previously been lost.

Roman Timeline 3rd Century AD

Roman Timeline 3rd Century AD

Year

Event

203 AD

Completion of the Arch of Septimus Severus in the Roman Forum.

204 AD

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Birth of the Emperor Philip the Arab. Christian writer Tertullian completes his work *The Crown*.

204 AD

Secular Games (*Ludi saeculares*) celebrated throughout the Empire

205 AD

First consulship of the Roman historian Dio Cassius.

207 AD

Birth of the Emperor Aemilian on the island Jerba in Africa.

208 AD

Birth of the Emperor Alexander Severus, in the city of Caesarea.

209 AD

Emperor Septimus Severus campaigns in Britain against the Caledonians.

211 AD

Death of Septimius Severus in Britain. Caracalla and Geta, Severus' sons rule as joint emperors. Geta murdered by Caracalla 10 months later making him sole emperor.

212 AD

The *Constitutio Antoniniana*, issued by Caracalla, confers citizenship on all free men in the Empire.

213 AD

Birth of the Emperor Gallienus.

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214 AD

Birth of the Emperor Aurelian, in the province of Lower Moesia.

215 AD

The Emperor Caracalla issues a new form of silver coinage, the Antoninianus.

216 AD

New wars against Parthia. The baths of Caracalla are completed in Rome.

Caracalla makes concessions to the Jews, exempting them from taxes for the first time since Julius Caesar.

217 AD

Death of the Emperor Caracalla (Assassinated by Julius Martialis, an officer of the imperial bodyguard). Macrinus, the Praetorian Prefect under Caracalla, is hailed by the troops as the new emperor. He is the first emperor to be drawn out of the Roman Ordo Equester.

218 AD

Macrinus defeated by rebel forces near Antioch and executed. Elagabalus, nephew of Caracalla, is hailed as emperor after the defeat of Macrinus.

220 AD

Emperor Elagabalus establishes the Syrian sun god of whom he is priest, El Gabal, as a major Roman god.

222 AD

Elagabalus is murdered while in a latrine by the Praetorian Guard. Severus Alexander is hailed as the new emperor of Rome.

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224 AD

Birth of the Emperor Carus, who was born in the city of Narbo in Gaul.

225 AD

Birth of the Emperor Gordian III.

230 - 232 AD

The Sassanid dynasty of Persia launches a war to reconquer lost lands in the Roman east.

232 AD

Birth of the Emperor Probus, in the town of Sirmium.

233 AD

Alexander Severus begins to campaign against the Alemmani on the Rhine.

234 AD

Pannonian troops proclaim Maximinus Thrax as emperor.

235 AD

Death of the Emperor Alexander Severus, who was killed when his troops mutinied near the town of Moguntiacum. Maximinus Thrax is recognized by the senate as emperor. Thrax continues the campaign against the Alemmani successfully.

235 AD

Death of the historian Dio Cassius.

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235 AD

Gordianus I and Gordianus II assume emperorship of North Africa.

236 - 237 AD

Maximinus Thrax begins to campaign against the revived tribes of the Dacians and Sarmatians.

237 - 238 AD

Persians invade the Roman province of Mesopotamia.

238 AD

Year of the 6 emperors.

Death of the Emperor Maximinus Thrax, who was killed when his soldiers mutinied. Death of the Emperor Gordian I, who hanged himself. Death of the Emperor Gordian II, who was killed in battle. Death of the Emperor Pupienus Maximus, who was killed when his bodyguard lynched him. Death of the Emperor Balbinus, who was beaten and dragged naked through the streets of Rome before being killed by the Praetorians.

239 AD

Gordian III sole emperor. Gothic invasion of Lower Moesia is repelled.

240 AD

Birth of the Emperor Diocletian in the province of Dalmatia. A rebellion under the governor of Africa, Sabinianus, is put down near Carthage.

242 AD

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Gordian III marches against the Persian invasion of the East, and relieves the city of Antioch from siege.

243 AD

Persian occupation of the province of Syria is defeated by a general named Timesitheus.

244 AD

Death of the Emperor Gordian III, executed by Phillip the Arab who takes the throne. Phillip negotiates peace with the Persian invaders in order to deal with the troubles on the Rhine/Danube border.

245 AD

Phillip campaigns against and makes peace with several Germanic tribes. The future emperor G. Aurelius Valerius Diocletianus is born in Dalmatia.

247 AD

Philippus II is proclaimed emperor by the troops who were loyal to his father.

248 AD

Rome celebrates it's millenium birthday. A rebellion erupts under a Danube commander, Tiberius Claudius Marinus Pacatianus. Gothic tribes take advantage and invade the northern provinces. Decius defeats the invasion of the Goths and resettles Moesia and Pannonia and is proclaimed emperor by his men.

249 AD

Death of the Emperor Phillip the Arab, who was killed in a battle near Verona against Decius Trajanus. The Goths, under a King Kniva, renew their incursions into the Roman Empire.

250 AD

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Decius defeats Kniva. Birth of the Emperor Constantius Chlorus, who was born in Danubian region. Approximate birth of the Emperor Carinus. Approximate birth of the Emperor Galerius, near the town of Florentiana in Upper Moesia. Birth of the Emperor Licinius, in the province of Upper Moesia. Approximate birth of the Emperor Maximian, at the city of Sirmium.

251 AD

Herennius claims the throne backed by his army. Pretender to the throne, Julius Valens Licianus, is defeated and executed. Death of the Emperor Decius, who was killed in battle at Abričium against King Kniva of the Carpic Goths. Trebonius Gallus is proclaimed as emperor.

251 AD

Trebonius Gallus is proclaimed as emperor.

253 AD

Death of Trebonius Gallus. Aemilianus is proclaimed as emperor lasting only about 4 months. The general Valerian is proclaimed as emperor.

253 AD

Persian War flares up again, Antioch lost to Persia

254 AD

Marcomani attack and invade the province of Pannonia. The Goths, under King Kniva, rampage, loot and sack the length of Thrace.

256 AD

The Franks, a Germanic tribe formerly made up of the the Cherusci and Chatti, invade Gaul. The Goths launch an attack on Asia Minor.

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257 AD

More Persian invasions.

259 AD

A Germanic tribe, the Juthungi (Jutes), cross the Upper Danube and enter Italy.

260 AD

Jutes defeated by western co-emperor Gallienus. Emperor Valerian is taken captive by the Persian King Shapur I. Gallienus sole emperor.

261 - 274 AD

Gallic Empire established in Gaul by Postumus (261-268) and Tetricus (270-274)

262 AD

Plague throughout the empire.

267 AD

Nomadic tribe known as the Heruli invade Greece.

268 AD

Another Goth invasion eventually defeated by Gallienus at Naissus.

268 AD

Murder of the Emperor Gallienus. Claudius II Gothicus as emperor. Battle of Lake Benacus... Emperor Claudius II Gothicus defeated pretender M. Acilius Aureolus

268 AD

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Battle of Mediolanum, in which Emperor Claudius II Gothicus defeated a force of the Germanic Alemanni.

269 AD

The new queen of Palmyra, Zenobia, revolts against Rome and attacks Roman territory.

269 AD

Gothic invaders beaten by Claudius Gothicus again at Naissus.

270 AD

Birth of the Emperor Maximinus II Daia. The Romans abandon the province of Dacia. The army of Zenobia invades Egypt and enters the city of Alexandria. Death of the Emperor Claudius II Gothicus, who died of the plague. Succeeded by Aurelian.

271 AD

Emperor Aurelian defeats the Gothic Chieftain Cannabas. Battle of Placentia, in which a combined Germanic invasion of the Alemanni, Marcomanni, and Juthungi defeat a Roman army under the command of the Emperor Aurelian.

271 AD

More revolts: Septimus in Dalmatia, Domitianus in southern Gaul and Urbanus. Battle of Immae, Aurelian defeats Zenobia of Palmyra.

272 AD

Aurelian campaigns along the Rhine river against the Carpi.

274 AD

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Emperor Aurelian drives into Gaul and defeats the breakaway Gallic empire, re-annexing it. Aurelian defeats the Franks, Jutes and the Batavians.

274 AD

Birth of the future Christian emperor Flavius Valerius Aurelius Constantius (Constantine the Great) in the city of Naissus in Upper Moesia.

275 AD

Death of the Emperor Aurelian, who was stabbed to death by a Praetorian named Mucapor. Replaced by 75 year old Cornelius Tacitus.

276 AD

Death of Tacitus, replaced by Florian who is murdered. Ascension of Probus.

277 AD

Emperor Probus begins to campaign in Gaul, clearing the Goths and Germanic tribes from the province.

278 AD

Probus campaigns against Germanic incursion in Raetia and Vandals in Illyricum.

279 AD

Birth of the Emperor Maxentius.

282 AD

Death of the Emperor Probus, who was murdered near Sirmium by his own troops. Carus is proclaimed as ruler in Rome.

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282 AD

Carus defeats the Quadi and Sarmatians. Invasion of Persia by the Emperor Carus.

283 AD

Death of Carus. Carinus succeeds as the emperor in the West, and Numerian as the emperor in the East.

284 AD

The leader of the Praetorian Guard, named Diocles, assumes the name Diocletian and the title of emperor in the East after the death of Numerian. The ascension of Diocletian ends the period of the soldier emperors and begins a short time of recovery.

284 AD

Emperor Diocletian introduces the Edict of Maximum Prices, which fixes wages for people and the price of goods.

285 AD

Death of the Emperor Carinus, who was assassinated by his officers during the battle of Margus Valley in Moesia against Diocletian.

286 AD

Maximian defeats the Bagaudae, a group of rebels and discontented peasants, in Gaul. Made co-emperor in the west. Emperor Maximian campaigns along the Rhine River, fighting against the Alemanni and Burgundians.

290 AD

Emperor Diocletian pushes the Saracens out of Syria.

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292 AD

Diocletian finished the defeat of the Saracens.

293 AD

Diocletian creates the Tetrarchy (rule of 4) with himself as senior Augustus, Maximian as junior. Galerius is senior Caesar and Constantius Chlorus is junior Caesar .

296 AD

Revolt of Alectus and Carausius in Britain. Defeated by Constantius Chlorus.

296 AD

Emperor Diocletian splits the provinces up in order to lessen the risk from provincial governors. The new provinces are called Dioceses and there are six in the East (Orient, Pontus, Asia, Thrace, Moesia, and Pannonia), and six in the West (Britain, Gaul, Vienne, Italy, Spain, and Africa).

297 AD

Diocletian publishes an edict proscribing a religious order known as the Manichaeans.

297 AD

Galerius takes the Persian royal family hostage, and is therefore able to negotiate for very favorable terms of surrender.

298 AD

Constantius Chlorus repels the incursions of the Alemmani. Diocletian lays siege to Alexandria against a revolt led by Domitius Domitianus and Achilleus. Maximian recaptures the lost portions of Africa and

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subdues the Moors. Galerius reconquers the province of Mesopotamia.

Roman Timeline 4th Century AD

Roman Timeline 4th Century AD

Year

Event

301 AD

Diocletian's maximum price edicts go into effect.

303 AD

Diocletian persecutes the Christians in earnest.

305 AD

Diocletian and Maximian abdicate the throne. Galerius and Constantius Chlorus co-Augusti

306 AD

Death of the Emperor Constantius Chlorus in the city of Ebaracum. Constantine named Augustus in the West.

306 AD

Emperor Fl. Valerius Severus revolts and invades Italy. His father Maximian comes out of retirement first in his support, then in favor of Constantine. Severus killed in Pannonia and Maximian recognized as co-emperor.

308 AD

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Marcellus is appointed as the new Pope in Rome. Exiled in 309 and replaced by Eusebius.

308 AD

The Conference of Carnutum, a meeting of all of the Caesars and Augusti, eventually setting off civil war.

310 AD

Death of Maximian after the siege of Massilia by Constantine.

311 AD

Publication of the Edict of Toleration by the Emperor Galerius, ending Christian persecution, followed shortly by his death. Death of Diocletian.

312 AD

Constantine leads his army from Gaul, investing several towns and winning the support of most of Italy. On the march to Rome, he claimed to have seen the sign of a cross of light, and the words "By this sign, conquer". This is the basis for speculation on Constantine's Christian conversion

312 AD

Death of the emperor Maxentius after Constantine's victory at the battle of the Milvian Bridge. Constantine disbands the Praetorian guard.

313 AD

Victory of Licinius over Maximinus Daia at the Hellespont is followed by reconciliation of Constantine and Maximinus. Edict of Milan is signed by Emperor Constantine the Great and the Emperor Licinius setting a tone for peace and Christian acceptance.

314 AD

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Peace is interrupted once again when armed conflict breaks out between the co-emperors. Periods of war and peace follow for ten years with Constantine increasingly victorious.

315 AD

The arch of Constantine is erected in Rome.

316 AD

Battle of Campus Ardiensis in which Constantine defeats Licinius.

317 AD

Birth of Constantine II, in the city of Arelate.

320 AD

Birth of the Emperor Constans, in the city of Constantinople.

322 AD

St. Peter's Church is constructed in Rome.

323 AD

Constantine drives the Goths out of Thracia.

324 AD

Final victory for Constantine over Licinius at Adrianople and Chrysopolis. Constantine sole emperor.

325 AD

The Council of Nicaea makes Christianity the religion of the Empire

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326 AD

Constantine executes his son, Crispus, followed by his wife Faustus a year later. She was boiled alive.

326 AD

Constantine chooses Byzantium as the new capital of the Empire and renames it Constantinople.

328 AD

Birth of the Emperor Valens, in the city of Cibalae.

332 AD

Birth of the Emperor Julian the Apostate.

336 AD

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre is built and dedicated in Jerusalem.

337 AD

Constantine had himself baptized by Eusebius, the bishop of Nicomedia. Shortly before his death. Division of the empire between Constantine's three sons: Constantine II (west), Constans (middle), Constantius (east).

339 AD

Birth of the bishop of Milan, Ambrose, in the city of Trier.

340 AD

Civil war once again. Death of Constantine II against Constans at the battle of Aquileia.

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341 AD

Emperor Constans begins a successful campaign against the Franks.

343 AD

The Emperor Constans campaigns against the Picts and Scots in Britannia, whom he successfully drives back into Caledonia.

344 AD

Persian victory at Singara.

347 AD

Birth of the Emperor Theodosius the Great, in the town of Cauca, Northwestern Spain.

348 AD

Birth of Saint Jerome, the Christian writer.

350 AD

Death of the Emperor Constans after a revolt broke out under Magnentius. The Persians invade and take Armenia.

351 AD

Emperor Constantius II defeats the army of the pretender Magnentius in a battle near Mursa.

353 AD

Battle of Mons Seleucus in which Contantius defeats Magnentius in a bloody engagement.

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357 AD

Julian defeats the Alemmani.

359 AD

Sapor II invades Mesopotamia. Constantius goes to the east. Birth of the Emperor Gratian, in the town of Sirmium.

360 AD

Julian's army proclaims him emperor and he marches east.

361 AD

Death of Constantius II, Julian the Apostate takes over.

362 AD

Julian outlaws the teaching of Christianity.

363 AD

Battle of Ctesiphon, in which Julian defeats Shapur II, but Julian is killed in the battle. Jovian emperor.

364 AD

Jovian reverses Julians anti-Christian edicts. Nominates Valentinian as his heir and dies. Valentinian makes his brother Valens eastern emperor and takes the west for himself. Permanent separation of the empire.

367 AD

Valentinian defeats the Alemmani at Solicinium.

368 AD

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Valens at war with the Goths.

369 AD

Peace with Goths

369 AD

Huns invade Ostrogoth territory.

370 AD

Theodosius drives invading Picts out of Britain once again.

371 AD

Birth of the Emperor Valentinian II.

374 AD

Theodosius the Great campaigns against the Sarmatians along the Danube.

374 AD

Ambrose appointed bishop of Milan.

375 AD

Death of Valentinian. Followed by Gratian who also promoted his infant brother Valentinian II at Milan. Gratian is the first emperor to refuse the office of Pontifex Maximus.

376 AD

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Theodosius the Elder is killed in Africa and his son, the Great retires from public service.

377 AD

Emperor Valens and Emperor Gratian combine against Visigoth and Ostrogoth armies along the Danube. Goths move into Thracia. Birth of the Emperor Arcadius, in Spain.

378 AD

Gratian defeats Alemanni. The Romans, under Valens are then defeated badly at Adrianople by Fritigern and the Goths. Perhaps the most terrible and unrecoverable defeat in Roman history. Valens killed.

379 AD

Gratian nominated Theodosius (the Great) to replace Valens.

380 AD

Theodosius the Great declares Christianity to be the sole religion of the empire.

382 AD

Treaty of Theodosius with Visigoths.

383 AD

Revolt of Maximus in Britain. Death of Gratian. Theodosius recognizes Maximus in the west and Valentinian II at Milan. Birth of the Emperor Honorius.

387 AD

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Emperor Theodosius signs a treaty with the Persian King Shapur III, giving Persia four fifths of Armenia, and Rome one fifth. He then crushed Maximus at Aquileia.

390 AD

Birth of the Roman general Flavius Aetius.

391 AD

Paganism is officially ended with edicts published by Emperor Theodosius.

392 AD

Death of the Emperor Valentinian II. Eugenius replaces him, set up by the Germanic general Arbogast.

394 AD

The last showing of the ancient Olympic Games is held in this year after it is banned by Emperor Theodosius the Great. There are no games again until 1896.

394 AD

Theodosius and the Germanic Alaric defeat Arbogast at the River Frigidus.

395 AD

Death of Theodosius the Great. His sons Honorius takes the west, and Arcadius the east. The Huns invade Armenia, Cappadocia and Syria.

395 - 397 AD

Alaric invades the Balkans but is checked by Stilicho. Alaric set up as governor of Illyricum.

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399 AD

Ostrogoths invade and capture Galatia, Pisidia, and Bithynia.

Roman Timeline 5th Century AD

Roman Timeline 5th Century AD

Year

Event

400 AD

Alaric and the Visigoths invade Italy, capturing much of the peninsula in the south

401 AD Vandals led by King Radagaisus invade Noricum and Raetia. Birth of emperor Theodosius II.

402 AD Vandal auxiliary general Flavius Stilicho defeats Alaric at Pollentia.

403 AD Stilicho defeats the army of Alaric in the battle of Verona, forcing Alaric to retire. Honorius moves the capital of the Western Empire to Ravenna.

405 AD Stilicho repels a barbarian invasion of Italy under Radagaisus. Martyrdom of the monk Telemachus, who is stoned to death trying to break up an arena event, closes the colosseum and officially ends gladiatorial combat in Rome.

406 AD Vandals invades Gaul.

407 AD The last legion in Britain, Legio II Augusta, is withdrawn, and the province abandoned.

408 AD Murder of Stilicho by Honorius. Death of the eastern emperor Arcadius. Replaced by Theodosius II at age 7.

409 AD Vandals, Suevi and Alans invade Spain, forever removing it from Roman control. Alaric, after besieging Rome, declares Attalus as emperor.

410 AD Alaric sacks Rome, the first external capture of Rome in 800 years, and deposes Attalus. Alaric dies shortly after. He is succeeded by Athaulf as the new king of the Visigoths.

412 - 413 AD Constantius III drives Alaric and the Visigoths from Italy into Gaul.

413 AD Revolt of Heraclius in Africa put down.

417 AD Visigoths settle in Aquitania, Gaul.

419 AD Birth of the Emperor Valentinian III.

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- 420 AD Ostrogoths settle in Pannonia. Death of the Christian writer St. Jerome.
- 421 AD Death of Constantius III.
- 423 AD Death of Honorius, replaced by the biy Valentinian with Placidia as regent.
- 427 AD Boniface revolts in Africa.
- 429 AD Invited by Boniface, the Vandals in Spain, under Geiseric invade and conquer Mauretania, then Africa.
- 430 AD Death of the writer and Christian St. Augustine of Hippo.
- 430's AD Roman General Flavius Aetius campaigns against Visigoths, Burgundians and Franks in Gaul, re-establishing some Roman control.
- 434 AD Attila made King of the Huns.
- 435 AD King Theodoric I of the Visigoths besieges the Romans at Narbonne but is eventually defeated by Aetius.
- 436 AD Aetius defeats the Burgundians.
- 438 AD Theodosius publishes a code clarifying Roman law.
- 439 AD Geiseric of the Vandals takes Carthage.
- 440 AD Geiseric invades Sicily, but is bribed to leave.
- 441 AD Attila the Hun invades Thracia.
- 442 AD Britain falls to Saxon invaders, despite continuing pleas for help to Aetius.
- 443 AD Attila comes to terms with Theodosius and the eastern empire, focusing instead on the west.
- 447 AD Attila invades Moesia.
- 450 AD Justin I, future Byzantine emperor, is born in Illyria. Marcian succeeds Theodosius II and stops paying tribute to the Huns.
- 451 AD Attila invades Gaul devastating as he goes. The huns are eventually defeated by Aetius and Theodoric I the Visigoth, though Theodoric is killed and replaced by Theodoric II.
- 452 AD Undeterred by defeat, Attila invades Italy but decides to spare Rome and retires.
- 453 AD Death of Attila the Hun.
- 454 AD Revolts, internal power struggles and enemy attacks collapse the Hunnic empire. With the threat of the Huns gone, Valentinian has Aetius murdered for fear of his power. The Alemmani invade across the Danube.
- 455 AD Valentinian III murdered by supporters of Aetius. Maximus proclaimed emperor. At the request of Valentinian's widow Eudoxia, Geiseric of the Vandals invades and sacks Rome from Africa. He carries off Eudoxia and her daughters, leaving a power vacuum in the west. The Visigoths proclaim the former general of Aetius, Avitus as new emperor in the west.
- 456 AD 'Master of Soldiers' Ricimer launches a fleet against widescale naval attacks of the Vandals.

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- 457 AD Majorian is proclaimed as emperor in the West and is recognized by the Eastern Emperor Leo, who had previously replaced Marcian.
- 460 AD Destruction of Majorian's fleet by the Vandals off Cartagena.
- 461 AD Death of Majorian. Libius Severus emperor.
- 463 AD The Goths are prevented from crossing the Loire River by the Roman general Aegidius.
- 465 AD Libius Severus dies. Ricimer rules as patrician under Leo in Constantinople.
- 466 AD Euric, King of the Visigoths, begins conquest of Spain.
- 467 AD Eastern Emperor Leo appoints the Roman general to emperor of the Western Empire.
- 468 AD Leo sends Basiliscus to crush Geiseric in Africa, but his army is destroyed.
- 472 AD Ricimer deposes Anthemius and installs Olybrius as western emperor, however both die shortly after of illnesses.
- 473 AD Glycerius set up as western Emperor.
- 474 AD Death of Leo, replaced by his infant grandson Leo II who also dies shortly thereafter. Zeno ascends as emperor in the east. Julius Nepos ascends as the latest puppet in the west with the support of the eastern empire.
- 475 AD Romulus Augustulus, son of Hunnic general Orestes installed as the 'last Roman Emperor'. Julius Nepos flees to Dalmatia.
- 476 AD Germanic general Odoacer, in command of the troops in Italy is proclaimed King. He desposes Romulus and offers to rule as King in the name of Zeno, the eastern emperor. Zeno prefers to keep Julius Nepos as Emperor, and Odoacer agrees, but Nepos never returns to Rome.
- 476 AD End of the Western Roman Empire. With Odoacer's appointment as King, the system of Roman government, first Republic than Imperial ceases to exist. After over a century of near constant invasions and usurpations, the Roman system finally collapses, permanently.
- 480 AD Death of Julius Nepos, who lived essentially in exile in Dalmatia. Though technically the last Roman emperor (Odoacer issued coinage and conducted other administration affairs in his name, even after 476 AD) he held no power since Odoacer's ascension as King.

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- 9 BC:** Rome invades Tigranes' Armenian kingdom and destroys its capital, Tigranocerta
- 80 BC:** the Scythians (Saka) under Bhumaka conquer northwestern India from Bactria
- 71 BC:** Mithridates VI of Pontus is conquered by Rome
- 64 BC:** Syria and the Phoenician cities are conquered by Roman general Pompey and the Seleucid dynasty ends
- 63 BC:** Pompeus captures Jerusalem and annexes Palestine to Rome
- 53 BC:** the Parthians led by Orodes II defeat the Romans at Carrhae (Syria)
- 20 BC:** a treaty between Rome and the Parthians fixes the boundary between the two empires along the Euphrates river (Iraq)
- 50 AD:** Christianity emerges from Palestine
- 78 AD:** Kanishka, king of the Kushan, enlarges the kingdom from Bactria into Uzbekistan, Kashmir, Punjab, moves the capital to Peshawar and promotes Buddhism
- 116:** Roman emperor Trajan defeats the Parthian king Vologezes III and conquers Mesopotamia, including the Parthian capital Ctesiphon
- 224:** Ardashir, descendant of the priest Sassan, seizes the throne of Persia/Parthia, ends the Arsacid dynasty, and becomes the first Sassanid king with capital in Istakhr (near Persepolis) and Zoroastrianism as the official religion
- 225:** Ardashir I Sassanid defeats Artabanus V, last Parthian ruler, and moves the capital to Ctesiphon
- 233:** Ardashir I Sassanid conquers Kushan
- 244:** Shapur I becomes king of the Sassanids and attacks Rome
- 250:** Shahpur I establishes the library of Jondi Shahpur, one of the largest in the world
- 256:** the Persians/Sassanids conquer Dura Europus in Mesopotamia
- 241:** Mani, a thinker from Ecbatana, begins to preach in Seleucia-Ctesiphon
- 276:** Mani is crucified by the Sassanids for trying to incorporate Judaism, Christianity and Zoroastrianism into one religion ("manicheism")
- 298:** the Sassanids sign a peace treaty with Rome
- 298:** Youstol Dispage
- 363:** the Sassanid king Shapur II defeats the Roman emperor Julian and recapture Nisibis and Armenia
- 379:** Shapur II died after conquering Arabia and reaching the border with China
- 380:** Buddhist monks carve two giant Buddha statues in the rock at Bamiya, Bactria (Afghanistan)
- 451:** Zoroastrian Persia (Sassanids) defeats Christian Armenia
- 460:** Persian king Firuz persecutes Jews, who emigrate to Arabia
- 484:** Zoroastrian Persia and Christian Armenia sign a treaty that

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allows the Armenians to keep their religion

Ch. 5 - Extra-Biblical Writings

How do we know what we know about the silent years and new testament times?

New Testament Introduction is a

List of Historians of the Ancient Period\\]\]\\
Greek & Roman Literature

Historians of the Ancient Period

- [Herodotus](#), (484 - c. 420 BC), Halicarnassus, "Father of History"
- [Thucydides](#), (460 - c. 400 BC), Peloponnesian War
- [Berossus](#), (early 3rd century BC), Babylonian historian
- [Xenophon](#), (431 - c. 360 BC), an Athenian knight and student of Socrates
- [Ptolemy I Soter](#) (367 BC — c. 283 BC), General of Alexander the Great, Founder of Ptolemaic Dynasty.
- [Timaeus of Tauromenium](#), (c. 345 - c. 250 BC), Greek history
- [Quintus Fabius Pictor](#), (c. 254 BC - ?), Roman history
- [Gaius Acilius](#), (fl. 155 BC), Roman history
- [Polybius](#), (203 - c. 120 BC), Early Roman history (written in Greek)
- [Sima Qian](#), (c. 145 - c. 86 BC), Chinese history
- [Julius Caesar](#), (100 - c. 44 BC), Gallic and civil wars
- [Diodorus of Sicily](#), (1st century BC), Greek history
- [Sallust](#), (86 - 34 BC)
- [Dionysius of Halicarnassus](#), (c. 60 - after 7 BC), Roman history
- [Livy](#), (c. 59 BC - 1h, (? - 25), Roman history
- [Marcus Velleius Paterculus](#), (c. 19 BC - c. 31 AD), Roman history
- [Quintus Curtius Rufus](#), (c. 60-70), Greek history
- [Ban Gu](#), (32 - 92), ([Han Dynasty](#))
- [Flavius Josephus](#), (37 - 100), Jewish history
- [Ban Zhao](#), (45 - 116), ([Han Dynasty](#))
- [Thallus](#), (early 2nd century AD), Roman history
- [Plutarch](#), (c. 46 - 120), would not have counted himself as an historian, but is a useful source because of his [Parallel Lives](#) of important Greeks and Romans.
- [Gaius Cornelius Tacitus](#), (c. 56 - c. 120), early Roman Empire
- [Suetonius](#), (75 - 160), Roman emperors up to Flavian dynasty
- [Appian](#), (c. 95 - c. 165), Roman history
- [Arrian](#), (c. 92-175), Greek history
- [Lucius Ampelius](#), (3rd century AD?), Roman history

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- [Dio Cassius](#), (c. 160 - after 229), Roman history
- [Herodian](#), (c. 170 - c. 240), Roman History
- [Eusebius of Caesarea](#), (c. 275 - c. 339), Early Christian
- [Ammianus Marcellinus](#), (c. 325 – c. 391), Roman history
- [Rufinus of Aquileia](#), (c. 340 - 410), Early Christian
- [Philostorgius](#), (368 - c. 439), Early Christian
- [Socrates of Constantinople](#), (c. 380 - ?), Early Christian
- [Fa-Hien](#), (c. 337 - c. 422), Chinese Buddhist monk and historian
- [Theodoret](#), (c. 393 - c. 457), Early Christian
- [Priscus](#), (5th century), Byzantine history
- [Sozomen](#) (c. 400 - c. 450), Early Christian
- [Salvian](#), (c. 400/405 - c. 493), Early Christian

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Study Questions Four

Chapter 4: Roman Empire & Chapter 5: Extra-Biblical Histories

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Quiz Four

Chapter 4: Roman Empire & Chapter 5: Extra-Biblical Histories

Ch. 6 - Introduction to Section Two

New Testament Contextualization

Ch. 7 - Structure & Theme of the N.T.

Thus we see, in the period between the Testaments, world powers passed from the Medo-Persians to the Greeks, and from the Greeks to the Romans. The Gospel story opens under the rule of Rome.

The New Testament or covenant derives its name from (Luke 22:20; I Cor. 11:25) "The New Testament in my blood." (Matt. 26:28) - For this is my blood of the New Testament which is shed for many for the remission of sins. The blood of Jesus is a new and living way (Heb. 10:20) written to them that believe.

Theme: Mark 1:5 - The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand.

Gal. 4:4 - When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son.

Eph. 1:10 - The dispensation of the fullness of times

Heb. 10:7,9 - I come (in the volume of the book is written
of me) To do thy will O God.

He taketh away the first (covenant) that He may establish the second.

The message of Jesus concerned the character and the coming of the kingdom of God.

- a. John 3:1015 - At the beginning of His ministry, He spoke of His kingdom to Nicodemus by night.
 - b. John 18:33-38 - At the end of His ministry, He spoke to Pilate in the judgment hall of Jerusalem. "My kingdom is not of this world."

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The message of Jesus, the Messiah, was revealed in fact and character to His disciples, but it was concealed from the people, lest they should accept the fact and misunderstand the character. The teachings of the kingdom was private - the famous Messianic Secret. Matt 13:11 - He spoke in parables, because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of Heaven, but to them it is not given. Only when the secret was out was the Kingdom's character made as plain as could be by a public fulfillment of prophecy. Zech. 9:9 - "Rejoice daughter of Jerusalem, thy King cometh unto thee." Matt. 21:9-11 "Hosanna to the Son of David." "Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Who is this? This is Jesus the prophet."

Background

From Malachi to Christ - The Period of Silence, about 400 years. In 538 BC Medo-Persia defeated the kingdom of Babylon. The Persian rule was tolerant and allowed the high priest freedom of religion. Because of its positions, Palestine suffered greatly from wars between Persia and Egypt. Meanwhile, Alexander the Great at the age of twenty (336 BC) came to the throne and for thirteen years altered the course of human history. By uniting the East and West, he prepared the way for their ultimate unity because of this third world empire of Daniel's vision. Their Hellenic civilization and culture prepared the way for Christianity by the universal language of Greek. By the placement of the Jews in dispersed areas of the kingdom, there was greater attention given to the law and prophets with the result that their expectation of the coming Messiah widely spread.

God was bringing His great plan into focus.

The period of Ptolemy (320 - 204 BC) or 116 years had important bearing on the interests of the Jews. Alexander's kingdom was divided by his four generals. Ptolemy Philadelphus, treated the Jews kindly and had their writings translated into the Greek Septuagint. The predictions of the coming Messiah would lead to a greater than Jewish expectation of Him, for now the world was being made ready.

Then Seleucus, another of Alexander's generals, founded Antioch under the Syrian Monarchy. Antiochus the great defeated by Ptolemy Philopater who persecuted the Jews. The period of the Jews under Syrian rule lasted 39 years (204-165 BC). Antiochus seized Palestine and Syria after death of Ptolemy. The land was divided into 5 provinces: Judea, Samaria, Galilee, Trachonitus, and Perea. Antiochus Epiphanes came to the throne and again the Jews were persecuted. He returned after a false report that he died, and in his return (168 BC) he slew 40,000 Jews and profaned the temple and terrorized the Jews.

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During the period of the Macabees there was a revolution provoked by the cruelties of Antiochus. Mattathias, the priest, led the Jews to revolt and was succeeded by his son Judas Macabeaus who became governor of Palestine for about 100 years. (165-63 BC) He was slain in battle with the Syrians and Jonathan his brother became leader and was murdered and Simon his brother took over and was succeeded by his son John Hyrcanus. There was a civil war between his grandsons and Hyrcanus was appointed governor by Pompey.

Then the Roman period (63 BC) that Rome came into possession of Palestine and gave liberty to the Jews. Caesar appointed Herod as governor of Galilee (47 BC), when Caesar was assassinated, the empire was divided, and Antony made Herod a king. The Jews settled among the nations. The two parties of Sadducees and Pharisees arose. It was under the reign of Augustus Caesar when all the world was at peace. Thus, the promise of the seed of the woman was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus, the long looked-for Messiah.

The OT constitutes the _____ for Christ and contains prophecies of His divine person and redemptive work. The NT is the account of the realization of these predictions in the _____ of the Redeemer of His glorious Gospel.

The OT is an account of a Nation.

The NT is an account of a Man.

The Nation was founded and nurtured of God to bring the Man into the world.

His appearance on the earth is the Central Event of all history. The OT sets the stage for it. The NT describes it.

The whole Bible is builded around this Beautiful Story of Christ, and His promise of Life Eternal to those who Accepted Him. The Bible was written only that men might Believe, and Understand and Know and Love and Follow CHRIST.

The New is in the Old contained; the Old is by the New explained;

The New is in the Old concealed; the Old is by the New revealed;

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The New is in the Old foreshown; the Old is by the New full-grown.

In the Gospels, Christ is _____ to the world and His Gospel _____ in the death, resurrection, and ascension of the Redeemer. In the Acts, Christ is _____ and His Gospel _____ in the world. In the Epistles, His Gospel is _____ in its doctrinal and practical meaning. In the Revelation all the redemptive purposes of God in and through the Redeemer are

_____ for time and eternity. The NT is thus the capstone

and fulfillment of the prophetic and redemptive truths contained in the OT, the OT

forming the foundation for the completed edifice of revealed truth found in the

NT.

I. The New Testament of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

“So this second part of the Holy Bible is entitled: The new covenant. But, when it is (as here) spoken of as Christ’s act and deed, it is most properly rendered a testament, for He is the testator, and it becomes of force by His death (Heb. 9:16,17). All the grace contained in this book is owing to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior; and, unless we consent to Him as Lord, we cannot expect any benefit by His as our Savior. This is called a new testament, to distinguish it from that which was given by Moses. How carefully do we preserve, and with what attention and pleasure do we read, the last will and testament of a friend, who has therein left us a fair estate, and, with it, high expressions of His love to us! How precious then should this testament of our blessed Savior be to us, which secures to us all His unsearchable riches! It is His testament; for though, as is usual, it was written by others, yet He dictated it; and the night

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before He died, in the institution of His supper, He signed, sealed, and published it, in the presence of twelve witnesses. In it is declared the whole counsel of God concerning our salvation, Acts 20:27." - Matthew Henry

1. Definition -

The NT is a collection of sacred writings produced by the early Christian Church.

WHY CALLED THE NT?

The Jews were called the people or children of the covenant.

Ex. 17:2; 24:1-8 Jer. 31:33

Old Testament - Old Covenant

New Testament - New Covenant

I Cor 11:25 (Fulfillment of prophecy in OT)

Heb. 8:6-13

"The books of the New Covenant or New Testament."

God had entered into a new relationship with His people.

NT is the Divine Will - given to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's was the Church that produced the NT and not the NT that produced that Church.

2. Four demands for it being written -

a. To complete the incomplete revelation of the OT.

Heb. 1:1,2; 10:1 Jer. 31:31-34 Mal. 3:1

b. To show the fulfillment of the OT prophecies.

Luke 4:21 John 13:18; 17:12Acts 1:16

And many other references.

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The OT pointed to the coming Messiah; the NT shows the fulfillment of that hope.

- c. To present in its fullness the way of salvation .

John 20:31

- d. To give all needed revelation for God's children.

John 4:25; 17:8; 16:12,13

This especially concerns the Church - Matt. 16:18

Eph. 5:23-32

The whole Church will not listen to the Word.

The Bride will listen to the Word and be led by the Spirit.

- 3. Distinguishing Characteristics -

GRACE - NT **LAW** - OT

Remember - Grace is more binding than the Law.

Luke 12:35

- 4. Divisions -

- a. History (5)

1. Gospels 4

2. Acts 1

- b. Doctrine (21)

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1.	Pauline	14
2.	General	7
c.	Prophecy	
1.	Revelation	<u>1</u> 27

II. The Four Gospels

"The four Gospels are, by all odds, the most important part of the Bible; more important than all the rest of the Bible put together; more important than all the rest of the books in the whole world put together; for we could afford to be without the knowledge of everything else than to be without the knowledge of Christ."

Bible books that precede are _____, and those that follow are _____, of the "Hero of the Four Gospels." - Halley's

1. Why Four?

There were many more than four in the beginning. Luke 1:1-4

The following list includes some of the more common pseudoeipi-graphal books of the NT.

Writings of men - not part of the Inspired record.

The Gospel of Thomas
The Gospel of the Ebionites
The Gospel of Peter
Protevangelium of James
The Gospel of the Egyptians
Arabic Gospel of Childhood
The Gospel of Nicodemus
The Gospel of Joseph the Carpenter

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The Passing of Mary
The Gospel of Nativity of Mary
The Gospel of Pseudo-Matthew
The Gospel of Barnabas
The Gospel of Bartholomew
The Gospel According to the Hebrews
The Gospel of Marcion
The Gospel of Andrew
The Gospel of Matthais
The Gospel of Peter
The Gospel of Philip

ACTS -

The Acts of Peter
The Acts of John
The Acts of Andrew
The Acts of Thomas
The Acts of Paul
The Acts of Matthias
The Acts of Philip
The Acts of Thaddaeus

EPISTLES -

The Letter Attributed to Our Lord
The Lost Epistle to Corinthians
The (6) Letters of Paul to Seneca
The Epistle of Paul to the Laodiceans

APOCALYPSES -

The Apocalypse of Peter
The Apocalypse of Paul
The Apocalypse of Thomas
The Apocalypse of Stephen

The age of Caesar, Cicero, Sallust, Virgil, Horace, Seneca, Livy, Tacitus, Plutarch and Pliny was a period of great literary activity. Within a generation the Story of Jesus had spread over the whole known world, and enlisted countless thousands of devoted followers. Naturally, there arose a great demand for Written Narratives of His life.

God, Himself, we believe, took a hand in the _____ and _____ of these four,

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as containing that which He wanted to be known about Christ. In the OT there are some _____
_____. But only here are Four of the Bible books about the Same Person. It must mean _____ importance.

2. Four is the number of human completeness.

Eze. 1:10 - 4 living creatures

Rev. 4:7 - 4 beasts

Matthew Jesus portrayed as a Lion

Demonstrates "Behold thy King"

Zech. 9:9; 21:9 Luke 19:38

JEWS

Mark Jesus portrayed as the Ox

Depicts "Great Servant" "Behold My Servant"

Isa. 42:1; 10:44 Phil. 2:7

ROMANS

Luke The humanity of Jesus

Declares "Behold the Man"

Zech. 6:12 Luke 1:78

GREEKS

John Jesus portrayed as the Eagle

Describes "Behold your God"

Isa. 40:9 John 20:28

CHRISTIANS

3. What are the Gospels?

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a. Portraits -

The four Gospels are neither histories of the life of Christ, nor biographies. They are rather portraits of His person and work. As portraits they present four different poses of one unique personality. Matthew by the Holy Spirit presents Christ as King, Mark as Servant, Luke as Man, and John as God.

However, Matthew, although featuring Christ as King, sketches His role as King in very close connection with His character as Servant, Man and God. Likewise, although featuring Him as Servant, Mark depicts His servant role in closest connection with His character as King, Man and God. Similarly, Luke declares Him as Man and John describes Him as God. Thus all four writers present the one and same unique person. He is the King of Israel, the Servant of the Lord, the God-Man, and humanity's Redeemer.

b. Herald's of Christ's three-fold ministry

In their four-fold portraiture of Christ's person as King, Servant, Man and God, the Gospels center in Christ's three-fold ministry of Prophet, Priest and King.

Deut. 18:15-19 As Prophet He fulfilled Moses' great prediction. He was the inimitable, peerless, unequaled Prophet by virtue of the uniqueness of His person. He not merely spoke for God as other Prophets who preceded Him, but God spoke through Him as Son. Heb. 1:1,2 In contrast to the OT prophet who was a voice for God, the Son, being God, was the voice of God Himself.

As Priest, Christ became both the Sacrifice and the Sacrificer when He died on the cross to save sinners (Heb. 9:14) and through His resurrection lives eternally to make intercession for them. (Heb. 7:25)

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As Israel's King, He was rejected at His first advent, but will reign in that office at His second coming, fulfilling the Davidic Covenant.

36

II Sam. 7:8-16 Luke 1:30-33 Acts 2:29-

Luke 1:30-33

Acts 2:29-

Acts 15:14-17

What is THE Gospel?

Anglo-Saxon word which means “God-spell” or “God’s Story.”

The Good News of the Glad Tidings of Jesus. Only one Gospel, but many themes and phases of that Gospel. Each expresses a different attitude of the Gospel.

The Gospel is:

Christ
Message
Good News

books of t

The whole Gospel has been recorded for us in the New Testament.

“The Gospel according to .”

They are called Gospels and not letters or epistles because they are not addressed to any particular person or church. They are not biographies of Jesus - a biography would include all the facts of the person's life.

Christ and

John tells the purpose of the Gospels - John 20:31.
He wrote to convince people that Jesus was the
that they should accept Him as their Savior.

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Thus, as applied to the four portraits of Christ the term “Gospel” (cf. Mk. 1:1) is used in the sense of the good news of salvation provided by the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. (cf. I Cor. 15:1-3) The Gospels, strictly speaking, are not an exposition of THE Gospel, although occasional expository notations occur, as in John. They are an account of the provision of the Gospel for needy sinners in person and work of Christ.

For the historical out working of the divinely provided Gospel we must go to Acts. For a doctrinal exposition of the Gospel we must go to the Epistles.

Describing the eternal preexistence, human birth, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus the Christ, as well as His life and teachings, the four Gospels present a living, dynamic, unique personality. God became man, to work out man’s redemption from sin. These four portraits present Him as Lord and Savior, rather than describing all He did and in the precise order in which He did it. They introduce us to HIM, rather than to His life as a whole.

The Gospels, in their form, are incomplete as a story, but marvelously complete and purposeful as a divine revelation of the Son of God our Savior.

4. Relation to the rest of the Bible
 - a. OT promises a coming Redeemer. Gospels show fulfillment of this promise. They record His birth, ministry, death and the Gospels also predict His second coming.
 - b. Acts contains history of the Church from its founding on the Day of Pentecost to Paul’s first imprisonment in Rome (some 30 years).
 - c. The Epistles contain the distinctive teaching for the church.
 - d. The Revelation completes the prophetic picture of God’s future program. It pictures the Man-Child, Christ’s second coming, etc.

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5. Relationship to each other

"The Holy Spirit is not a reporter, but an editor: The gospels are not attempts to give simple factual biographies of Jesus Christ; if so they would be very poor ones, as the tell only a very little of what He did. They are rather to emphasize four different aspects of His person and work. At the time these records were committed to writing there were four principal groups of people: Jews, Romans, Greeks, and the rest of the world.

- a. Matthew is the Gospel especially written for the Jews. (Mal. 3:1) It presents Christ as the King, the promised Messiah.
- b. Mark is the Gospel especially written for the Romans. It presents Christ as the suffering servant of Jehovah, the accomplisher of mighty works.
- c. Luke is the Gospel written for the Greeks. It presents Christ as the perfect Man.
- d. John is the Gospel written for all the world. It presents Christ as the Son of God who gave Himself for men because "God so loved the world."

"Matthew is concerned with the coming of the promised Savior; Mark with the life of a powerful Savior, Luke with the grace of a perfect Savior; John with the possession of a personal Savior." - Griffith Thomas

Purpose of Christ's coming as indicated in each Gospel.

Matt. 5:17

Luke 19:10

Mark 10:45

John 5:43; 10:10

Study Questions Five

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Chapter 6: Introduction & Chapter 7: Structure & Theme of the N.T.

1. What does the OT constitute?
2. What does the OT contain?
3. In relation to history what is the appearance of Christ on the Earth?
4. Why was the Bible written? (1-5)
5. When did Jesus sign, seal and publish His covenant?
6. How did Jesus sign, seal and publish His covenant?
7. What is declared in this new covenant or Testament of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?
8. Give a definition of The New Testament.
9. What is the distinguishing characteristic of the NT?
10. Define this distinguishing characteristic.
11. What does the following statement mean? "The Bible books that precede the Gospels are anticipatory and those that follow are explanatory of THE Gospel."
12. How many Gospels have been written?
13. How many Gospels do we use? Why?

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14. What must it mean to have this many accounts (books) about the same Person?
15. What does this number signify?
16. What is the Gospel?
17. What are the Gospels?
18. What poses do the Gospels present Christ in?
19. Give at least two characteristics of Christ's role as Prophet that distinguishes Him from all other prophets.
20. Give at least two characteristics of Christ's role as Priest that distinguishes Him from all other priests.
21. Give at least two characteristics of Christ's role as King that distinguishes Him from all other kings.

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Quiz Five

Chapter 6: Introduction & Chapter 7: Structure & Theme of the N.T.

Ch. 8 - Politics of the N.T.

Archelaus made ethnarch until deposed by the Romans in 6 A.D.
(Orders census that brings Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem in Luke 2.)

Philip (Tetrach of Fifth Province east of Galilee until 33 A.D.)

Herod Antipas (Tetrach of Galilee and Perea until 39 A.D.)

Ch. 9 - Language of the N.T.

New Testament Introduction is a
The Divine Unfolding of the Kingdom

There is a sense in which the Kingdom never began because it has a direct historical continuity with the old kingdom. Yet there is another sense in which the Bethlehem manger was the King's first throne, resplendent (shining forth) with the glory of His incarnation. But in the mind of Jesus 1) the kingdom began to manifest at the Baptism, the Voice from Heaven, this is My beloved Son; 2) the transfiguration - voice from the cloud, This is My beloved Son; 3) the cross - the veil of the temple was rent, the graves were opened; 4) the resurrection - the angels said, He is risen; 5) Pentecost - they were all filled with the Holy Ghost.

Titles of the books not put there by authoers but later scribes.

Epistles seemed to be written in a style to be read aloud
They are 'circular letters' intended to be read around

In-house language of the New Testament

- Sacrifice

Ch. 10 - Cultures & Philosophies of the N.T.

New Testament Introduction is a

Interpreting the NT by considering from the following perspectives:

- Christianity to a Greek
- Christianity to a Jew
- Christianity to a Roman

The Different Ways Christ was looked at by different kinds of people:

- Disciples,
- Jews
- Romans
- Sick
- Believers
- John's Followers

Judaizers
Gnostics

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Study Questions Six

Chapters 8-10: Politics, Language, Cultures & Philosophies of the N.T.

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Quiz Six

Chapters 8-10: Politics, Language, Cultures & Philosophies of the N.T.

Ch. 11 - Glossary

New Testament Introduction is a

ACHUMENID EMPIRE

The eponym of this dynasty was Achaemenes (Old Persian: Haxāmaniš, a bahuvrihi compound translating to "having a friend's mind").

The **Achaemenid Empire** ([Persian](#): امپراتوری هخامنشی) (ca. 550-330 BCE), also known as the **Persian Empire**, was the successor state of the [Median Empire](#), ruling over significant portions of what would become [Greater Iran](#). The Persian and the Median Empire taken together are also known as the **Medo-Persian Empire**, which encompassed the combined territories of several earlier empires.

HASMONEANS

The **Hasmoneans** were the ruling dynasty of the **Hasmonean Kingdom of Israel** ([140-37 BC](#)), an independent religious [Jewish state](#) in the [Land of Israel](#). The Hasmonean dynasty was established under the leadership of [Simon Maccabaeus](#), two decades after his brother [Judas the Maccabee](#) ("Hammer") defeated the [Seleucid](#) army during the [Maccabean Revolt](#) in [165 BC](#). The Hasmonean Kingdom survived for 103 years before yielding to the [Herodian Dynasty](#) in 37 BC. Even then, [Herod the Great](#) felt obliged to bolster the legitimacy of his reign by marrying a Hasmonean princess, Mariamne, and conspiring to have the last male Hasmonean heir drowned in his [Jericho](#) palace.

HERODS

- [Herod the Great](#) (c. 74-4 BC), King of the Israel who reconstructed the Second Temple (Herod's Temple) in Jerusalem.
- [Herod Archelaus](#) (23 BC-c. AD 18), ethnarch of Samaria, Judea, and Idumea
- [Herod Antipas](#) (20 BC-c. AD 40), tetrarch of Galilee and Peraea, who was described in the New Testament as ordering John the Baptist's death and as mocking Jesus
- Herod [Agrippa I](#) (c. 10 BC-AD 44), king of Judea, called "Herod" in the Acts of the Apostles
- [Herod II](#), sometimes called Herod Philip I, father of Salome
- [Philip the Tetrarch](#) (4 BC-AD 34), sometimes called Herod Philip II, tetrarch of Ituraea and Trachonitis

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- [Herod of Chalcis](#), also known as Herod III, king of Chalcis (AD 41-48)
- Herod [Agrippa II](#) (AD 27-100), tetrarch of Chalcis who was described in Acts of the Apostles as "King Agrippa" before whom Paul of Tarsus defended himself

PTOLEMIES

The **Ptolemaic dynasty** was a Greek royal family which ruled the [Ptolemaic Empire](#) in [Egypt](#) during the [Hellenistic](#) period. Their rule lasted for 275 years, from **305 BC to 30 BC**.

[Ptolemy](#), one of the seven [somatophylakes](#) (bodyguards) who served as [Alexander the Great](#)'s generals and deputies, was appointed [satrap of Egypt](#) after Alexander's death in [323 BC](#). In [305 BC](#), he declared himself King Ptolemy I, later known as "Soter" (saviour). The [Egyptians](#) soon accepted the Ptolemies as the successors to the [pharaohs](#) of independent Egypt. Ptolemy's family ruled Egypt until the [Roman](#) conquest of [30 BC](#).

All the male rulers of the dynasty took the name Ptolemy. Ptolemaic queens, some of whom were the sisters of their husbands, were usually called Cleopatra, Arsinoe or Berenice. The most famous member of the line was the last queen, [Cleopatra VII](#), known for her role in the Roman political battles between [Julius Caesar](#) and [Pompey](#), and later between [Octavian](#) and [Mark Antony](#). Her suicide at the conquest by Rome marked the end of Ptolemaic rule in Egypt.

SELUCID

The **Seleucid Empire** ([312 - 63 BC](#)) was created out of the eastern conquests of the former [Macedonian Empire](#) of [Alexander the Great](#). The [Macedonian kingdom](#) was centered in the [Near East](#) and regions of the [Asian part](#) of the earlier [Achaemenid Persian Empire](#). At the height of its power it included central [Anatolia](#), the [Levant](#), [Mesopotamia](#), [Persia](#), today's [Turkmenistan](#), [Pamir](#) and parts of [Pakistan](#). It was a major centre of [Hellenistic culture](#) which maintained the preeminence of [Greek](#) customs and where a [Macedonian](#) political elite dominated, mostly in the urban areas. Seleucid expansion into Greece was abruptly halted after decisive defeats at the hands of the [Roman army](#). Much of the eastern part of the empire was conquered by the [Parthians](#) under [Mithridates I of Parthia](#) in the mid-2nd century BC, yet the Seleucid kings continued to rule a rump state from Syria until the invasion by [Armenian](#) king [Tigranes the Great](#) and their ultimate overthrow by the [Roman](#) general [Pompey](#).

Hellenization

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Hellenization (or Hellenisation) is a term used to describe the spread of ancient Greek culture, and, to a lesser extent, language. It is mainly used to describe the spread of Hellenistic civilization during the Hellenistic period following the campaigns of Alexander the Great of Macedon. The result of Hellenization was that elements of Greek origin combined in various forms and degrees with local elements, which is known as Hellenism. Persian culture had a decisive impact upon the emergence of Hellenism. In modern times hellenization has been associated with adoption of modern Greek culture and the ethnic and cultural homogenization of Greece.

Eponym

An eponym is the name of a person, whether real or fictitious, after which a particular place, tribe, era, discovery, or other item is named or thought to be named.

Romulus is the eponym of Rome.

Etruscan

English

Alternative forms: * Etrurian

Adjective - Etruscan

1. Of or pertaining to the region and culture of Etruria, a pre-Roman civilization in Italy.

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